A PICTURE HISTORY OF CHESS

by

Fred Wilson

VISIT…

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The Sanskrit word *chaturanga* means "four-limbed," and when applied to a board game in northwest India around the seventh century AD, it referred to the four components of the army—infantry, cavalry, chariots, elephants. Chaturanga, or chess, has always been a metaphor for war, and the graphic spectacle inherent in the precise images of the chess pieces and checkered board, as well as the familiar sight of competitors concentrating fiercely, has been portrayed by artists, printers, photographers and craftsmen throughout the game's first millennium. Indeed chess graphic symbols are inseparable from chess history—but while there have been several prose histories of chess, until now there have been no pictorial ones.

The 295 illustrations in this *Picture History of Chess* present a panorama of the game's most important moments and players. From chess knights carved only 200 years after the game's invention, to a manuscript portrait of one of the earliest chess authors (Dominican friar Jacobus de Cessolis, circa 1275), to photographs (many heretofore unpublished) of almost every principal master of the last two centuries, the chess drama is conveyed through its scenes.

Chess has been a frequent focus of drama, on and off stage: the title page from Thomas Middleton's allegory *A Game at Chesse* (1624) shows the Kings, Queens, Knights and Bishops who played "nine days together" at the Globe theatre; a shot of a 1925 tournament at Moscow is really a still from the Russian comedy *Chess Fever* which used actual tournament footage; a painting entitled *The Death of Ivan the Terrible* shows the Czar collapsing at the chessboard. Of special note are the portraits and photographs of great and prominent names from Philidor to Karpov, of matches and tournaments from Staunton vs. Saint-Amant 1843 to Milan 1975. The unusual shots of Morphy, Steinitz, Lasker, Nimzowitsch, Reshevsky, Capablanca, Alekhine, Fischer (plus unexpected spectators, e.g. Che Guevara and Castro) collected by chess historian Fred Wilson provide a unique documentary-gallery of who's who and who-was-who in chess. Wilson's immense knowledge of the game's past enriches the captions, in which he situates each player within a broad chess perspective. *Picture History of Chess*, the only book of its kind, brings to both chess aficionados and the casual observer, in the finest reproduction, the pleasures and beauties of pictorial chess, past and present.

Original Dover (1981) publication. Text and picture selection by Fred Wilson. 295 illustrations. vii + 182pp. 8⅜ x 11¼. Paperbound.

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A PICTURE HISTORY OF CHESS

by

Fred Wilson

Dover Publications, Inc.
New York

TO MY WIFE MARCIA

whose love, encouragement, patience, and understanding made this book possible.

"Chess, like love, like music, has the power to make men happy."
—Dr. Siegbert Tarrasch

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Introduction

Chess has been one of man's principal forms of mental recreation for over five hundred years. It has served millions as a pleasant diversion, a grateful escape and a healthy competitive outlet. For a precious few, chess has been the source of such incredible inspiration as to render its definition as a "game" a misnomer. To the great masters, chess is an art.

From the methodical Philidor, who was the first to develop a scientific chess strategy, to the amazing, creative genius of Bobby Fischer, chess has grown from an amusement of the aristrocracy into a truly international sport. Today chess is practiced by hundreds of serious professionals, and its enormous popularity has done much to create respect between those who are otherwise separated by political and cultural differences.

Although much has been written on chess (nearly 40,000 volumes), there has never been a book which attempted to *illustrate* the history of "The Royal Game" in all its aspects. In compiling this book I have sought the most arresting pictures of the players, tournaments and individual matches that have made the game famous. While often, especially with the nineteenth-century masters, my choice was limited, I have always tried to use the most representative illustrations of men and events. Most of the illustrations are scarce and come from unusual sources, and many have not been previously published.

Chess is one of those few fields of human endeavor where, however temporarily, one has the chance to achieve perfection. If I have succeeded in capturing only some of the fascination and glamour of the history and legend of chess, I will be most gratified.

F. W.

Credits

(*References are to illustration number.*)

Cleveland Public Library, John G. White Collection: 1, 5, 6, 13, 14, 16, 17–22, 25, 28–33, 36, 37, 48, 49, 56–58, 61, 65–68, 75–77, 87, 88, 90–92, 95, 98, 103, 109, 114, 117, 120, 123, 124, 128–131, 146, 154, 160, 161, 177, 186, 190.

Burt Hochberg: 50, 127, 141, 142, 144, 145, 163, 178–180, 184, 228, 233, 243, 249, 254–256, 258–261, 277–281, 289, 291.

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Beth Cassidy: 287.

David Levy: 67, 265.

A PICTURE HISTORY OF CHESS

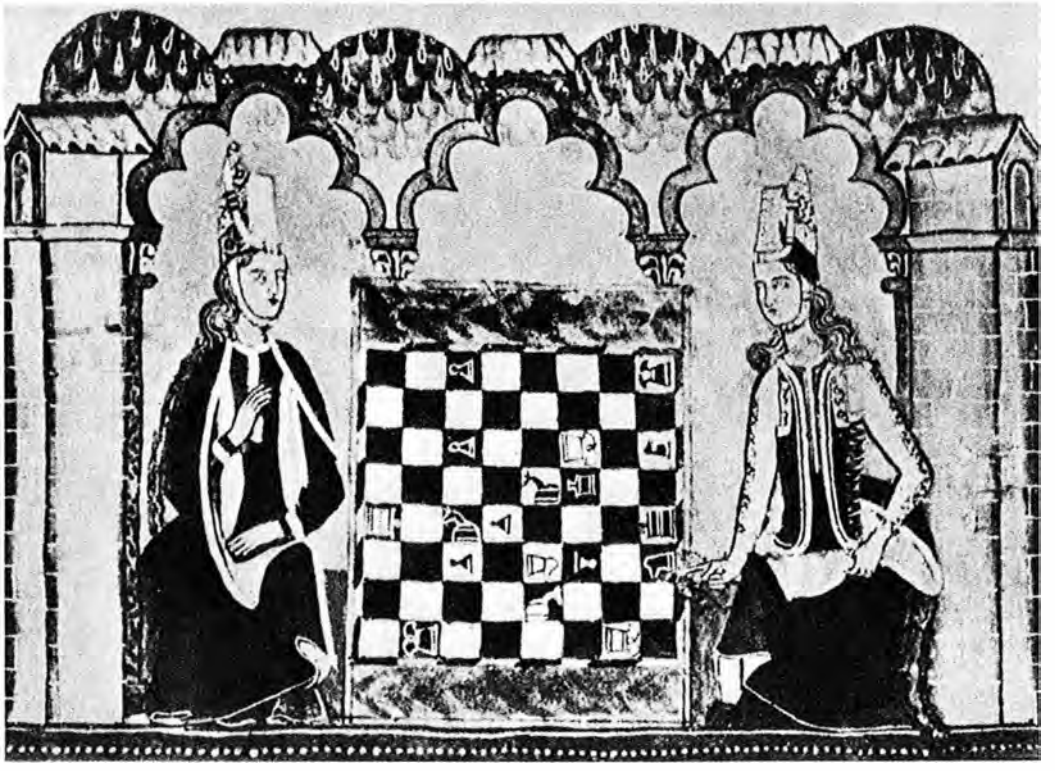
1. Man has created and enjoyed strategic board games since the dawn of civilization. This is a bas-relief from the tomb of the ancient Egyptian queen Nefertari. Was the queen playing some incipient form of chess over 4,000 years ago? We do not know and probably never will.

It has, however, been established that the earliest known precursor of the modern game of chess originated in India in the sixth century A.D. This was called *chaturanga* and, according to legend, was invented by an Indian philosopher to symbolize two opposing armies (*chaturanga* means "four-limbed," in reference to the four arms of the army). During the next 500 years chess spread throughout Asia, first to Persia and later to China and Japan. Chess was introduced into Europe between 700 and 900 A.D. by the Muslims, probably both by the Moors in Spain and by Saracen traders in Italy. It steadily increased in popularity in spite of some initial opposition from the Church, which considered chess a gambling game, and therefore sinful.

Medieval European chess was played by the same rules as its Muslim counterpart *shatranj* until the second half of the fifteenth century. Then certain innovations such as castling, *en passant* and increasing the powers of the queen and bishop were devised to accelerate the tempo of the game; by the middle of the sixteenth century the basic rules for playing chess as we know it today had become standard.

2

3



4

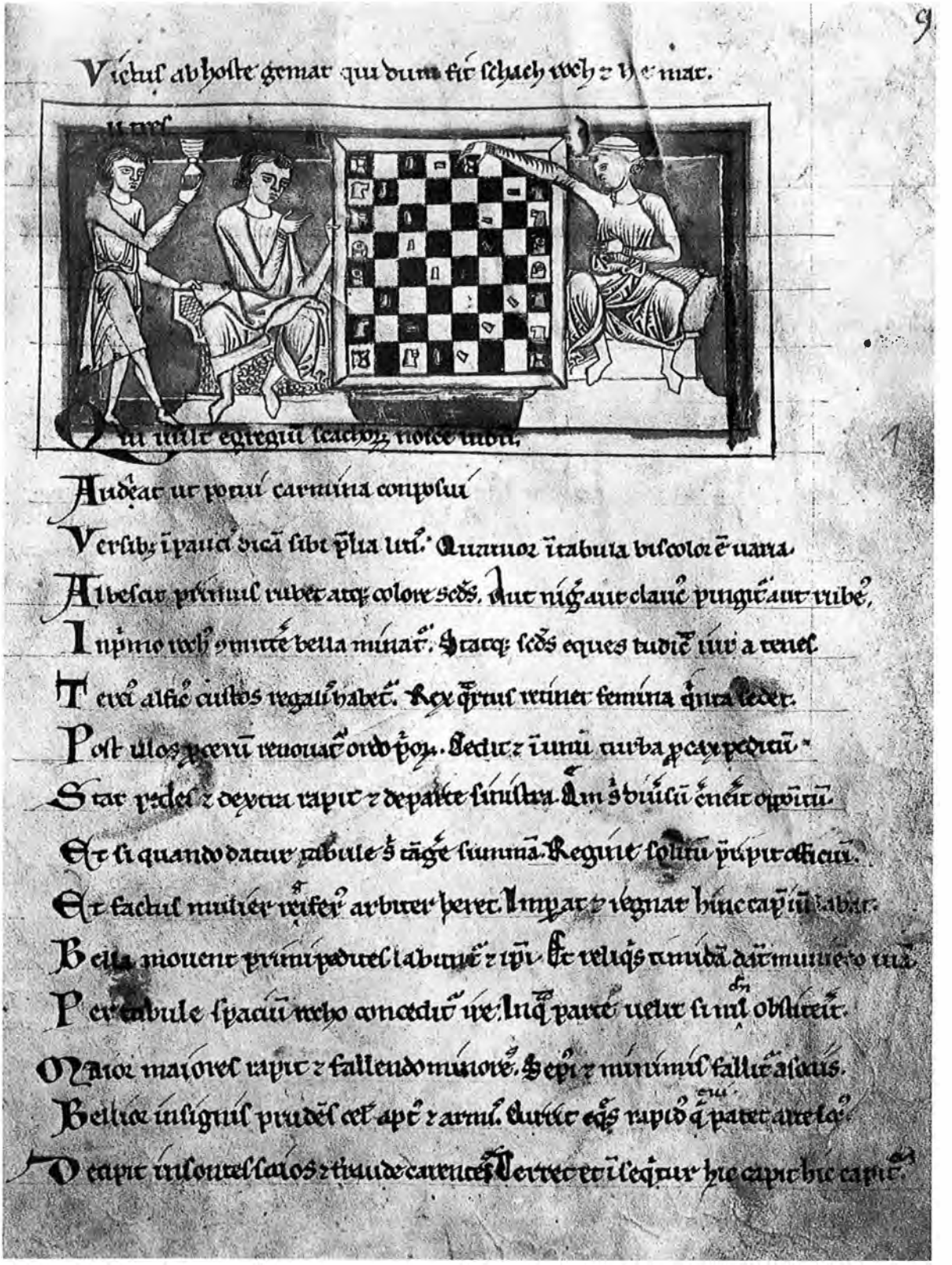
2. A knight, believed to date from as early as the ninth century, found in southern Italy.

3. A thirteenth-century knight found in Novgorod, Russia.

4. Spanish ladies playing chess, from a thirteenth-century manuscript written for King Alfonso of Spain. Familiarity with chess was already becoming a mark of culture.

Jacobus de Cessolis
De moriб. hnum et offyi nobiliu
De ludo scaccoz.
Incipit plogus in libeum quem composuit frat Jacobus de cessolis ordinis fratrum predicatorum de moribz hominum et offitijs nobilium super ludo scacorum et est liber totus moralis

5. The first page of a fourteenth-century manuscript version of *De ludo scaccorum* (On the Game of Chess) by Jacobus de Cessolis. After the Church's initial suspicion of chess playing, religious writers and educators in the Middle Ages began to use the wonderful symbolism of chess in allegories of moral instruction. Of these the most popular was this work by a Dominican friar, probably written in Lombardy around 1275. In the upper-left-hand corner of this manuscript is the only known portrait of the author. Several manuscript versions are extant and by 1550 it had been printed in over a dozen different editions.



6. A page of the same Cessolis manuscript shown in 5.

This chappytre of the fyrſt tractate ſheWyth Who fondy
fyrſt the playe of the Cheſſe. Capitulo ij

His playe fonde a phyloſopher of thozyent Whyche
t Was named in caldee Eyerſes or in greke philemes
toz Which is as mocke to ſay in engliſſh as he that louyth
Juſtyce and meſure / And this philoſopher Was renomed
gretly among the grekes andy them of Athenes Whyche
Were good clerkys and phyloſophers alſo renomed of theiz
connyng / This philoſopher Was ſo Juſt and treWe that he
had leuer dye / than to lyue longy and be a fals flatezer
With the ſaydy kyng / Foz Whan he behelde the foul & syn:
ful lyf of the kyng · And that no man durſt blame hym

7. A woodcut, purportedly of the philosopher who invented chess, from William Caxton's translation of Cessolis, entitled *Game and playe of the chesse*, printed in London, ca. 1480. The original edition, printed in Bruges in 1474 without the woodcuts, was the second book to be printed in the English language. This later edition was the second book printed in England.

The thyrd chapitre of the first tractate treteth Wherfore the playe Was founden and maad Capitulo iij

The cauſes Wherfore this playe Was founden ben iij

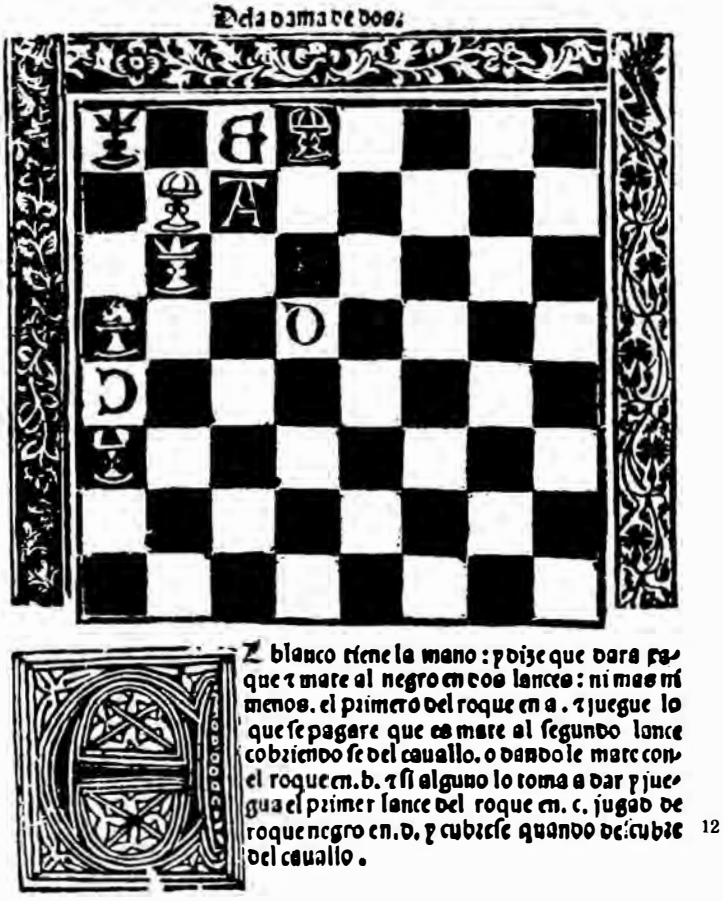
t. The firſt Was for to correcte and repreue the kyng for Whan this kyng enylmewdach ſaWe this playe / Andy the lawns · knyghtes and gentilmen of his court playe Wyth the philoſopher / he merueylled gretly of the beaulte and noueltee of the playe . And deſired to playe agaynſt the philoſopher / The philoſopher anſWerd and ſayd to hym that hit myght not be doon / but yf he firſt lernyd the play The kyng ſayd hit Was reſon andy that he Wold put hym to the payn to lerne hit / Than the philoſopher began to

8. Woodcut of the philosopher teaching the king to play, from Caxton's *Game and playe of the chesse.*

9. Noblemen playing chess in an illustration from *Libro di giuocho di scacchi*, an Italian version of Cessolis, printed in Florence in 1493. Note the rather smug spectators—even then there were "kibitzers"!

10. An illustration from Jean de Vignay's French translation of Cessolis's chess treatise, printed in 1504.

11


Dela dama de dos:
El blanco tiene la mano: pdize que dara pa-
que t mate al negro en dos lances: ni mas ni
menos. el primero del roque en a. t juegue lo
que se pagare que es mate al segundo lance
cobziendo se del caualllo. o dando le mate con
el roque en. b. t si alguno lo toma a dar pjue-
gua el primer lance del roque en. c. jugad de
roque negro en. d. t cubrese quando de cubre
del caualllo.

12

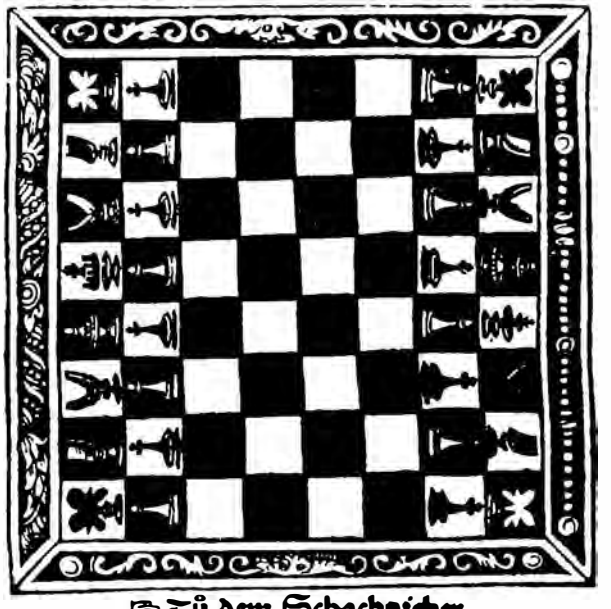
11 & 12. Title page and text page from the Spanish *Repetición de Amores e Arte de Axedres* by Lucena, believed to date from 1497. As the modern rules became accepted it was evident that new systems of opening moves had to be created and analyzed. Lucena's book is the first European work in which the openings are scientifically examined, and among the ten openings mentioned are the French Defense and the Center Counter—both of which are still played today.

According to the great chess historian H. J. R. Murray, Lucena is also the author of the famous Göttingen manuscript, a 33-page chess essay in Latin, written sometime between 1490 and 1500, which analyzes 12 openings and contains 30 problems.

Schachtzabel Spiel.

Eſz Ritterliche/künſt

liche Schachtzabel Spiels vnderwey ſung/erclärung/vñ verſtant/wo here das kommen/were das am erſten erfünden/vnnd auß was vrſach es erdacht ſey/ Auch wie man das künſtlich lernen ziehen vñ ſpielen ſolle/ſampt etlichē künſtlichē gereyten ſpielen ꝛc.



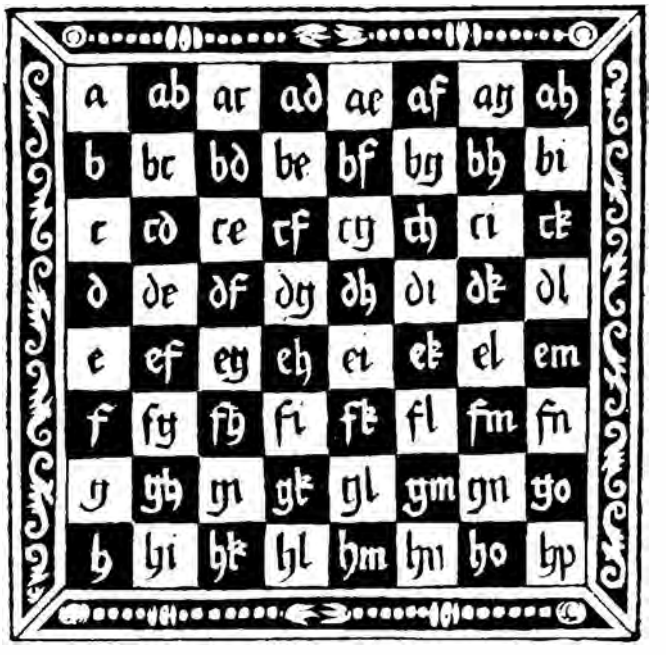
Zů dem Schachzieher.

Dein augen ſchepff/ nicht überſeh
Deim wyderreyl/ fleyßlich nach ſpeh/
Wie ſich gebürt/im Feld vnd Heer/
Dein volck das ſchick du zů der weer/
Vnd orden das recht an den ſtreyt/
Dero überſicht/ gerñ vnden leyt.

Getrückt zů Oppenheym. 13

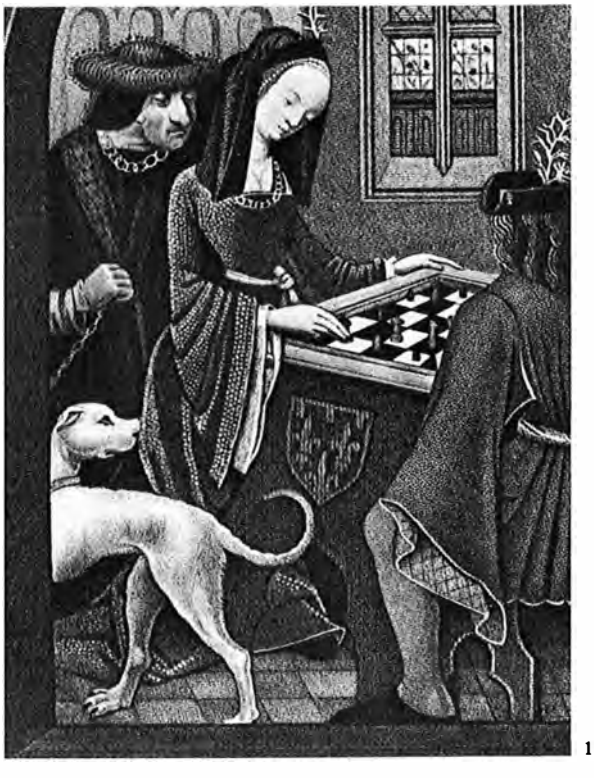
Eyn verzeicheter Schachza

bel/mit etlichen Büchſtaben auß dem a b c verordent/ Nach welchen büchſtaben/ alle nachuolgende gereylten Spiel in dem Schachzabel bzett künſtlich gezogen/gekürtzweilt/geſpielt/ erſtrittē/ vnnd darauß gelernt werden mögen/volgt hiernach getrückt.


a ab ar ad ae af ag ah
b bc bd be bf bg bh bi
c cd ce cf cg ch ci ck
d de df dg dh di dk dl
e ef eg eh ei ek el em
f fg fh fi fk fl fm fn
g gh gi gk gl gm gn go
h hi hk hl hm hn ho hp

Nůn Volgen etlich georden

te künſtliche ſtreyt/zůg/vnnd ſpiel/ dardurch ſich die Schachzieher üben ſöllen das Ritterlich ſpiel deß ſchachs deſto fürderlicher zů lernen vnnd begraffen, 14



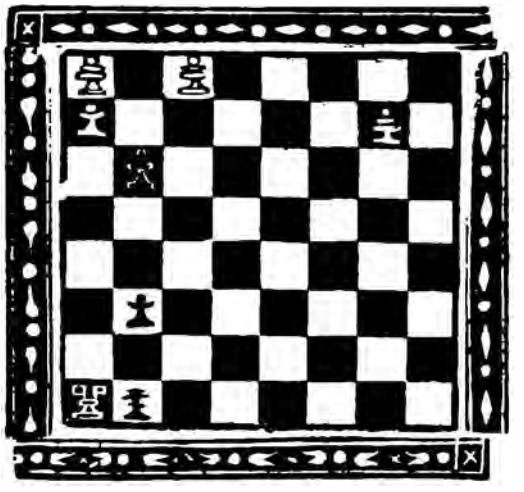
15

13 & 14. Title page and text page from *Schachzabel Spiel* by Jakob Mennel, published in Oppenheim in 1507. Reprinted in 1520 and 1536, this attractive German book is yet another work based on the writings of Cessolis.

The text page shows one of the earliest forms of chess notation. Because it is a completely algebraic system one would need a good memory to use it in recording a game, but it is nevertheless an interesting attempt at shortening the descriptions of the moves. As late as the early nineteenth century many chess writers were using a rather laborious and wordy form of chess notation, for example, "King's pawn forward 2 squares." Today this would be written "P-K4" (English descriptive) or "e2-e4" (modern algebraic); in Mennel's notation it would be written "gl-ei." Today, modern algebraic notation is becoming more widely accepted and will probably replace the various descriptive systems still used in some countries.

15. "Les Echecs Amoureux," an engraving by W. T. Fry after a fifteenth-century illuminated manuscript with the same title.

16


Subtilita per guadagnar vn rocho.
Si tu ai in coperta de rocho che tu non poi pigliar la dona tu li pigliarai lo rocho con la dona e lo negro pigliara con lo Re e poi li pigliarai la dona.
Dil non pora gener vn roq.
Si te tiene in incubierta de roq & tu no li puedes tomar la dama prendili el roq con la dama y lo negro tomara la dama con el Rey tu le tomaras su dama.

17

18

16 & 17. Title page and text page from *Questo Libro e da imparare giochare a Scachi* by Damiano, first published in Rome in 1512. It went through seven editions before 1561 and was the only real chess instruction book available before Ruy Lopez's work (which justly criticizes much of Damiano's mediocre openings analysis). Successful Italian players were usually reluctant to publish their theories and discoveries and thereby make them available to their opponents; wealthy patrons, however, often purchased works on chess from masters in their employ.

Being a professional chess player, a traveling "hustler," was a rough business in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Giovanni Leonardo and Paolo Boi, for example, frequently competed against each other in their travels across Europe, with Boi winning over 30,000 crowns in his long career. Both, however, met their deaths by poison (Leonardo was murdered by a jealous rival). Perhaps the most important of these chess adventurers was Gioachino Greco (1600?-37). He left Italy in search of fortune in 1621, won 5,000 crowns in Paris, then went to England in 1622—but was robbed of all his money on the way to London. There he beat the best English players, returned to Paris and recouped his losses, moved to Madrid and defeated all opponents at the court of Philip IV, and finally accompanied a nobleman to the West Indies, where he died and left all his money to the Jesuits. His great work, *Le Jeu des Echecs*, was first printed in England in 1656 and in France in 1669; it contains some brilliant observations and has gone through over 40 editions in many languages.

18. Marcus Hieronymus Vida, author of *Scacchia, Ludus*, a long but enormously popular allegorical poem on chess first published in 1527.

LIBRO DE LA

INVENCION LIBERAL Y ARTE

del juego del Axedrez, muy vtil y prouechosa: assi para los que de nueuo quisieren deprender à jugarlo, como para los que lo saben jugar.

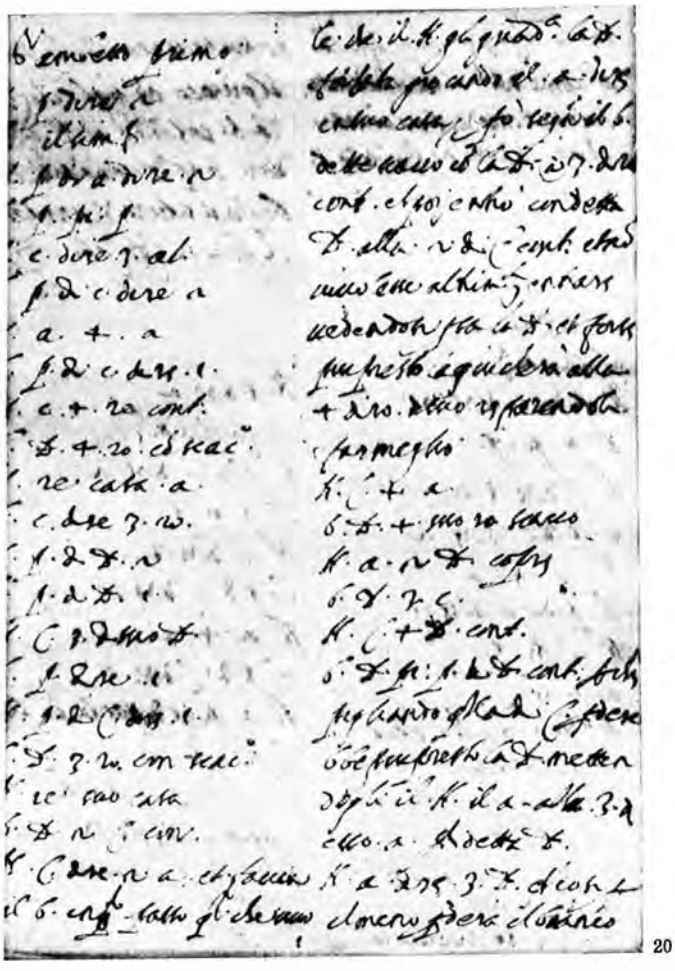
Compuesta aora nueuamente por Ruylopez de Sigura clerigo, vezino dela villa Cafra. Dirigida al muy illustre señor don Garcia de Toledo, ayo y mayordomo mayor del Serenissimo Principe don Carlos nuestro señor.

En Alcala en casa de Andres de Angulo. 1561.

CON PRIVILEGIO.

Esta tassado à cinco blancas el pliego.

19



20

19. The leading player of the sixteenth century was Ruy Lopez, a Spanish priest from Zafra in Estremadura. In 1560 he went to Rome on ecclesiastical business and while there defeated all the best local players, including Giovanni Leonardo, known as "Il Puttino" (the youth), who became one of the strongest professional chess players of the late Renaissance. After returning home Lopez published his famous *Libro de la Invencion liberal y Arte del Juego del Axedrez* (title page above) in 1561. It contains much new openings analysis and some interesting advice, such as "Place your opponent with the sun in his eyes." Lopez also argues against Black allowing the opening 1. P-K4, P-K4; 2. N-KB3, N-QB3; 3. B-N5, because it contains too many traps. This has become known as the *Ruy Lopez* opening, and it is still the most popular and perhaps the strongest opening for the player with the white pieces.

20. An original manuscript on chess by Giulio Cesare Polerio, the professional Italian chess player who was for many years the first player of Rome.

In 1575 Polerio joined the household of the Duke of Sora and was given an annuity of 300 crowns a year. It was not unusual for wealthy noblemen to patronize exceptional chess talents in the sixteenth century, and Polerio held his position as the duke's "favorite" until 1606 when he was defeated by D. Girolamo Cascio, who then replaced him in the duke's retinue. In 1574-75 he and Giovanni Leonardo visited Spain and defeated Ruy Lopez and Alfonso Ceron in a series of matches arranged by Philip II. After this the Italians dominated European chess for almost 200 years.

21. Title page of the rare second edition of *The famous game of Chesse-play*, actually written by Arthur Saul and first published in 1614. John Barbier revised it slightly and his edition was reprinted six times in the seventeenth century. It is the first *original* English chess manual.

The famous game

of Cheſſe-play,

Being a Princely exercise; wherein the Learner *may profite more by reading of this small Booke,* then by playing of a thousand Matches.

Now augmented of many materiall things formerly wanting, and beautified with a three-fold Methode, viz. Of the Cheſſe Men, of the Cheſſe-Play, of the Cheſſe Laws.

By IO. BARBIER. P.

If on your man you fight,
The firſt draught ſhall you play:
If not, it is mine by right,
At firſt to leade the way.

Printed at London by BAR: ALSOP, for ROGER IACKSON, and are to be ſold at his ſhop neere Fleetſtreet Conduit, 1614.

21

22

22. Engraved title page to the play *A Game at Chaess* by Thomas Middleton, 1624 (printed 1625). That chess and its terminology would lend itself to drama was inevitable, and phrases such as "being a pawn," "checkmated," "stalemated," and "gambit" have now, of course, become common in everyday speech.

23. The death of Ivan the Terrible. The fierce sixteenth-century Russian tsar had a passion for chess, and even died while playing (notice overturned chess board at right). Ironically, Lenin, the founder of Soviet Russia, was also a keen chess player.

23

24

ПРАВИЛА

ДЛЯ

ШАШЕЧНОЙ

ИГРЫ

СОЧИНЕННЫЯ ФРАНКЛИНОМЪ,

И

Переведенныя

СЪ

Французскаго языка.

Печатано

ВЪ САНКТПЕТЕРБУРГѢ

1791 года.

25

24. A page from an alphabet book by K. Estomin, published in Moscow in 1694. Chess was introduced into Russia during the tenth century, both by the Chinese from the east and by the Byzantine Greeks from the west. By the seventeenth century chess was popular enough to be used in this children's schoolbook, and an artisan was hired by the tsar's court specifically to repair chess pieces.

25. The extremely rare Russian edition of Benjamin Franklin's popular essay "The Morals of Chess," originally published in the *Columbian Magazine* in 1786. What is most odd is that the title in this Russian translation is given as "Rules of the Game of Checkers"!

Franklin had a great affection for chess and was probably the first American to write anything on the game. This famous and witty little essay reflects very much his own diplomatic character, and gives much useful advice, such as:

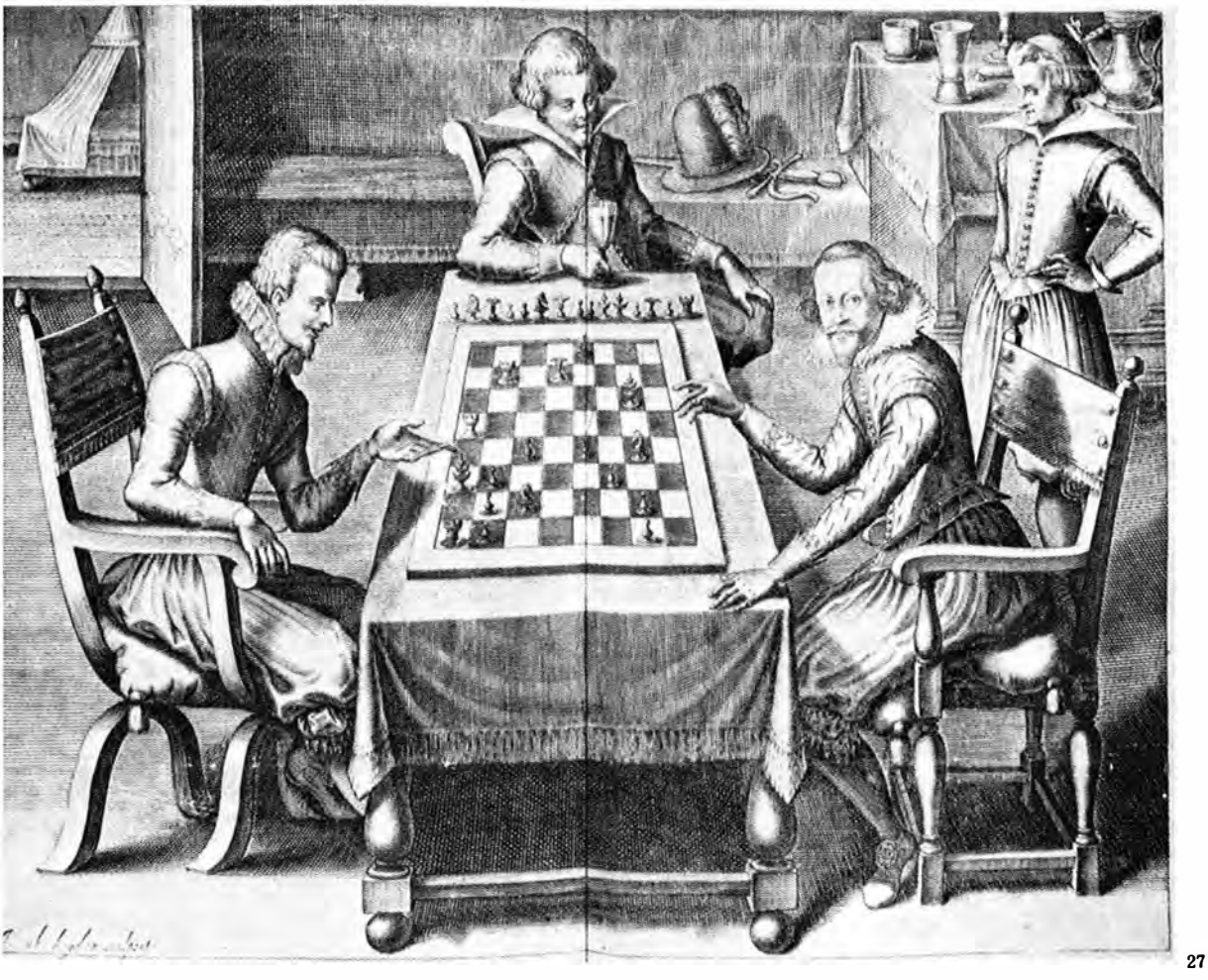
> You must not, when you have gained a victory, use any triumphing or insulting expression, nor show too much pleasure; but endeavor to console your adversary, and make him less dissatisfied with himself by every kind and civil expression, that may be used with truth; such as, You understand the game better than I, but you are a little inattentive; or, You play too fast; or, You had the best of the game but something happened to divert your thoughts.

26 & 27. Title page and a double-page engraving from *Das Schach- oder König-Spiel* by Gustavus Selenus (pseudonym of Augustus, Duke of Brunswick). Published in Leipzig in 1616, this magnificently illustrated work is a great favorite of collectors, and is the first book in German on the chess openings. Although basically a translation of Tarsia's version of Ruy Lopez's work of 1584, it also contains much additional information on medieval chess and *rythmomachy*, the most popular numbers game of the Middle Ages.

The engraving shows Augustus himself successfully checkmating an opponent; he was a great book collector and a noted chess player. He believed that there were great moral values and lessons to be gained by playing chess, and to him is credited what is probably the first famous chess epigram: "Chess is the art of human reason."

Das
Schach- oder
König-Spiel.
Von
GUSTAVO SELENO,
In vier unterschiedene Bücher/
mit besonderm fleiß/gründ- und
ordentlich abgefasset.
Auch mit dienlichen Kupfer-
Stichen / gezieret:
Dergleichen vorhin nicht aufgangen.
Diesem ist zu ende angefüget/ein sehr al-
tes Spiel / genandt /
RYTHMO-MACHIA.
Cum Privil. Cæsareo, ad Sexennium.
Lipsiæ. CIↃ IↃC XVI.

26



27

THE

POLITE GAMESTER:

CONTAINING

SHORT TREATISES

On the GAMES of

WHIST, QUADRILLE, } { BACK-GAMMON, PIQUET and CHESS.

TOGETHER WITH

An Artificial Memory,

OR AN

Eaſy Method of aſſiſting the Memory of thoſe that Play at the Game of WHIST.

By *EDMUND HOYLE*, Gent.

DUBLIN:

Printed for G. and A. EWING at the *Angel* and *Bible* in *Dame-ſtreet*, 1745.

28

THE NOBLE

GAME

OF

CHESS.

CONTAINING

Rules and *Inſtructions*,

For the USE of thoſe who have already a little Knowledge of this GAME.

By Capt. *JOSEPH BERTIN.*

LONDON:

Printed by H. WOODFALL, for the Author: And ſold only at *Slaughter's-Coffee-Houſe*, in *St. Martin's-Lane*. M.DCC.XXXV.

29

Chefs Analyſed:

OR

INSTRUCTIONS

By which a Perfect Knowledge of this

NOBLE GAME

May in a ſhort time be acquir'd.

By *A. D. PHILIDOR.*

LONDON:

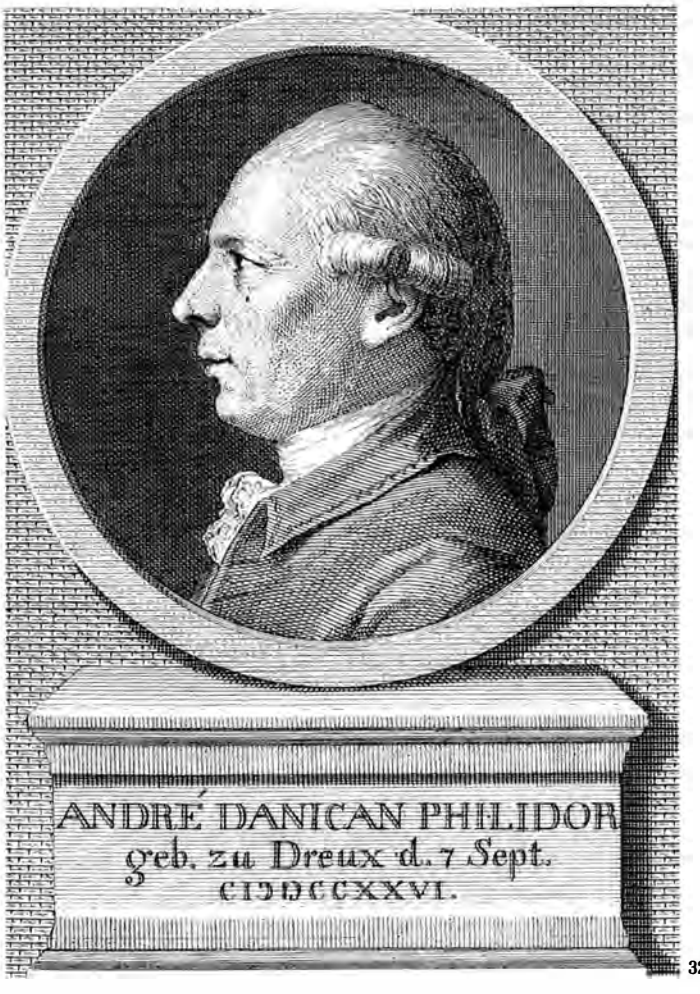
Printed for J. NOURSE, and P. VAILLANT, in the *Strand*. M.DCC.LXII.

30

28. Title page of the first edition of *Hoyle's Games*, printed in 1745. This famous handbook, which has continued in various forms to the present day, always included a section on chess, although that feature was often quite poorly written.

29. The need for a relatively accurate chess manual in English was finally met in 1735, when Captain Joseph Bertin published *The Noble Game of Chess.*

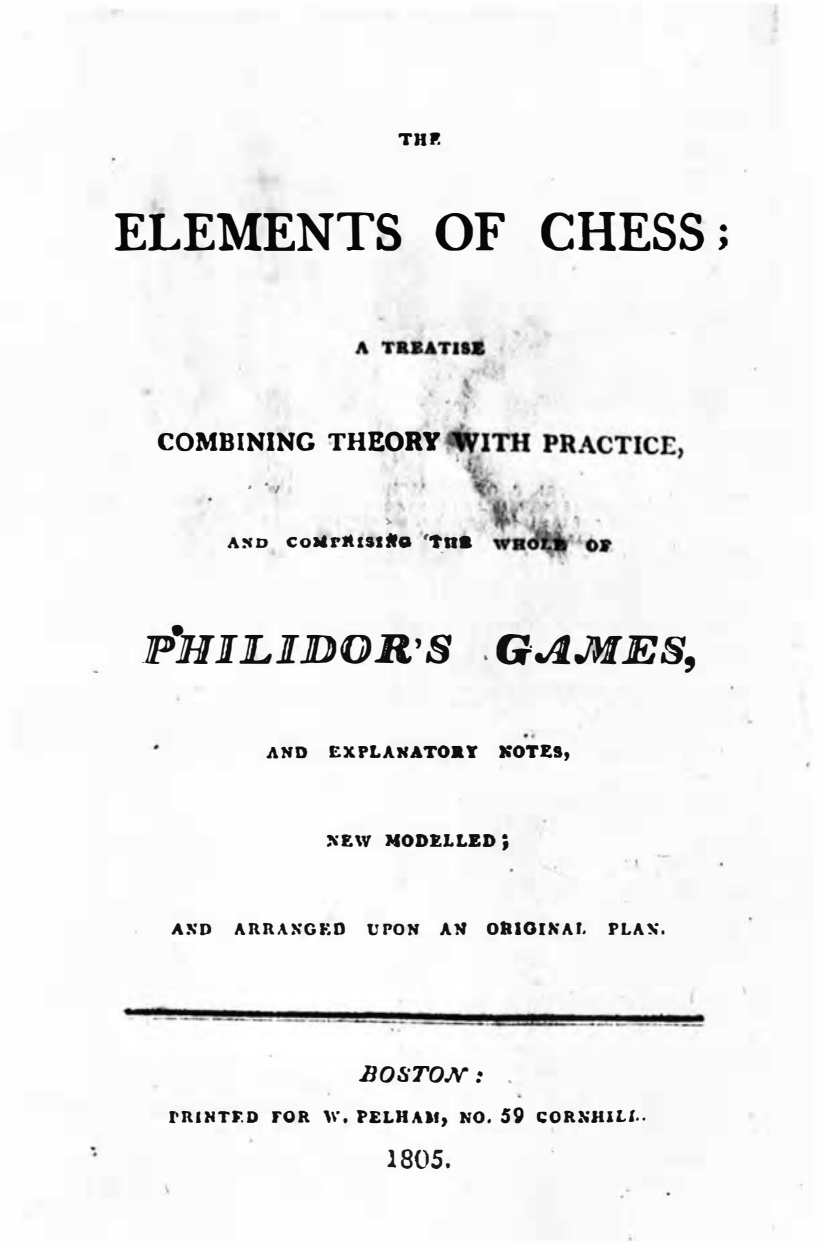
30. Perhaps the book most responsible for the great increase in the popularity of chess in eighteenth-century Europe was *L'analyze des échecs* by A. D. Philidor, first published in London in 1749. Although somewhat unsophisticated, and inferior in some respects to the works of his Italian contemporaries Lolli and Ponziani, Philidor's work was written with exuberance and clarity. It is the cornerstone work on chess strategy, anticipating by over a hundred years the classical theory, later elaborated by Steinitz and Tarrasch, of maintaining a strong pawn center. Immediately in demand, the first edition was reissued twice in 1749, translated into English in 1750 and German in 1754. The English edition was again reprinted in 1762 (the edition pictured here); Philidor revised it in 1777 and again in 1790. It went through hundreds of editions in the nineteenth century and is the most popular chess book of all time.



31. "Philidor Playing Blindfold at Parsloe's," an engraving from the *Sporting Magazine*, 1794. Philidor's blindfold exhibitions, where he would play two or three opponents simultaneously, were very popular, and were thought at the time to be extraordinary. We know now, however, that this is not a difficult feat for most accomplished players, and that Muslim masters had engaged as many as eight opponents in simultaneous play over 500 years earlier.

32. Engraved portrait of François André Danican Philidor (1726–95) by Bartolozzi.

Born into a family of musicians, Philidor spent most of his life alternating between two careers, chess and music. In 1747 he went to London, where he decisively beat Philip Stamma in a ten-game match at Slaughter's Coffee House. In 1750 Philidor traveled to Berlin and played chess at the court of Frederick the Great, where in 1755 he defeated his most prominent French rival, M. de Kermur, Sire de Legal. The next 20 years of his life were devoted primarily to composing—he wrote 23 operas which were highly thought of in his day, though seldom revived in the twentieth century. Judging from his surviving games, Philidor was not, by today's standards, a very strong player, though it must be remembered that he never encountered any really stiff competition.



THE

ELEMENTS OF CHESS;

A TREATISE

COMBINING THEORY WITH PRACTICE,

AND COMPRISING THE WHOLE OF

PHILIDOR'S GAMES,

AND EXPLANATORY NOTES,

NEW MODELLED;

AND ARRANGED UPON AN ORIGINAL PLAN.

BOSTON:

PRINTED FOR W. PELHAM, NO. 59 CORNHILL.

1805.

33. The first chess book printed in the United States was *Chess Made Easy* (Philadelphia, 1802). Although the volume also features the first American appearance of Franklin's "The Morals of Chess," it is otherwise an exact reprint of a later edition of Philidor published in London in 1796.

Much more interesting is *The Elements of Chess* (Boston, 1805), the title page of which is pictured here. It is the second American chess book and the first original manual of instruction by an American. Anonymously edited by William Blagrove, the publisher's nephew and an enthusiastic chess player, this book has a fascinating appendix which proposes changing the names of the chess pieces to those "more descriptive of its military character, and better adapted to our feelings as citizens of a free republic." Thus he suggests the name governor for king, general for queen, and pioneer for pawn. Such moves as "third pioneer takes the general" seemed hard to get used to, however, and the idea never caught on. Both of these books are quite rare and are coveted by collectors.

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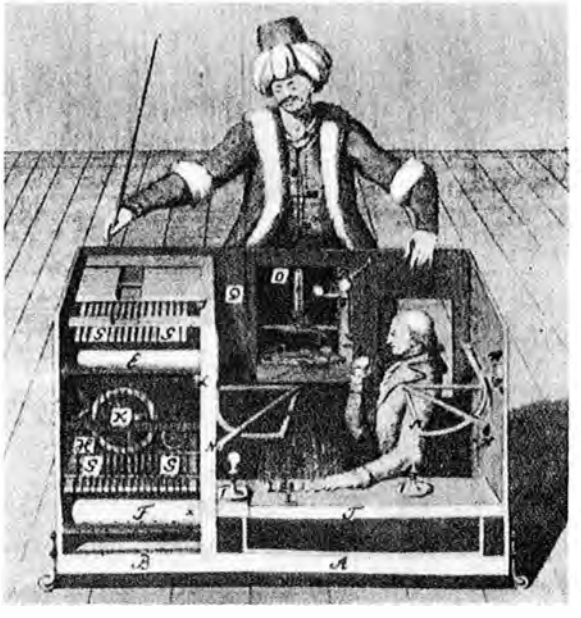


35

34 & 35. The attempt to create a chess-playing machine is not a development of our modern computerized society, but rather quite an old idea. The first chess automaton was actually invented in 1769 by a Hungarian engineer, Baron Wolfgang von Kempelen, and was called "The Turk." As pictured on this page, "The Turk" appeared to be a chess-playing robot operated by machinery located in the bureau chess table he was leaning against. Actually, this bureau concealed a small man who controlled the robot's movement of the pieces by means of strong magnets. First exhibited in Vienna in 1770, "The Turk" became an immediate financial success and was shown throughout Europe for many years. In 1826 a new owner, Johann Mälzel, brought it to the United States, where it eventually ended up in the Chinese Museum in Philadelphia and was destroyed in a fire in 1854.

The great interest aroused by "The Turk" (Napoleon played against it in 1809) caused several more chess automata to be built in the nineteenth century. First, in 1789 Joseph Friedrich von Racknitz constructed an automaton almost identical to "The Turk." Though somewhat cruder, it could only hold a boy lying in the bottom drawer. In 1876 Charles Gumpel, an Englishman, invented an automaton dubbed "Mephisto" which won first prize in a local tournament in 1878, though it was later learned that "Mephisto" was internally operated by the strong master Isidor Gunsberg. Also devised about this time (in 1868) was "Ajeeb" by Charles Arthur Hopper, who exhibited it at the Crystal Palace and the Royal Polytechnic Institute in England. Its real fame came later when transported to America, because from 1898 to 1904 it was covertly operated by none other than Harry Nelson Pillsbury, one of the greatest chess masters of all time, who naturally caused the automaton's "performances" to be quite spectacular. "Ajeeb" too was destroyed by fire, at Coney Island on March 15, 1929.

36

Mechanics' Magazine,
MUSEUM, REGISTER, JOURNAL, AND GAZETTE.
No. 396.] SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1831. [Price 3d.
Strange and unnatural ! let us stay and see
'This pageant of a Prodigy ;
Lo ! of themselves, the enlivened chessmen move.—Cow
LIVING CHESS PLAYERS.
Fig1.

37

36. "Game of Chess," a satirical engraving done in 1835 by the English artist George Cruikshank.

37. A most unusual proposal for conducting a game of chess with live pieces was made by an anonymous correspondent to the English *Mechanics' Magazine* in 1831:

> . . . a Scheme for playing this noble and scientific game with an animated dramatis personae, but in a manner much similar to pantomime, and suitable for public exhibition. It differs from any other plan that has been adopted, in this, that though men or boys be employed, the whole game may be gone through without breaking silence, except to proclaim check, or otherwise distracting the attention of an assembly. That it is possible to place persons dressed in appropriate costume on a chequered plain, and inform them where to move by a mechanical process. This scheme would afford an agreeable means for our chess clubs to exercise their skill to the entertainment of themselves and their friends. And more instruction might likewise be obtained from seeing such games as are laid down by Philidor and others played in this manner, than on the common board, where the study must needs be as confined as it is tedious.

38

39

38. The French domination of chess, which began with Philidor, reached its peak in 1834 with the so-called "Great Match" between Alexander McDonnell (1798–1835) and Louis Charles Mahe de La Bourdonnais (1795–1840), whose portrait is seen here. The Frenchman developed his great skill at the famous Café de la Régence in Paris during the early 1820s, where for a while he became the pupil of Alexandre Deschapelles (1780–1847), the leading French player after Philidor's death. Alexander McDonnell, of whom there is no known portrait, was not only the first great British champion but also the only great player Ireland has ever produced. McDonnell was born in Belfast and early in life became secretary to the Committee of West India Merchants in London. He joined the strong though short-lived Westminster Chess Club, founded by the able chess author and bibliophile George Walker. By 1834 McDonnell had become the strongest English player and was especially noted for his skill at odds and blindfold chess.

In 1834 a long series of four matches was held in London between McDonnell and La Bourdonnais, finally ending in a convincing victory for the Frenchman, the score being 44 to 27, with 13 games drawn. This is the first match in chess history in which both participants were of master strength. Many of the games are still considered interesting and beautiful, the most famous being the "Immortal Fiftieth" in which McDonnell correctly sacrificed his queen for a bishop and a knight to achieve a winning positional advantage.

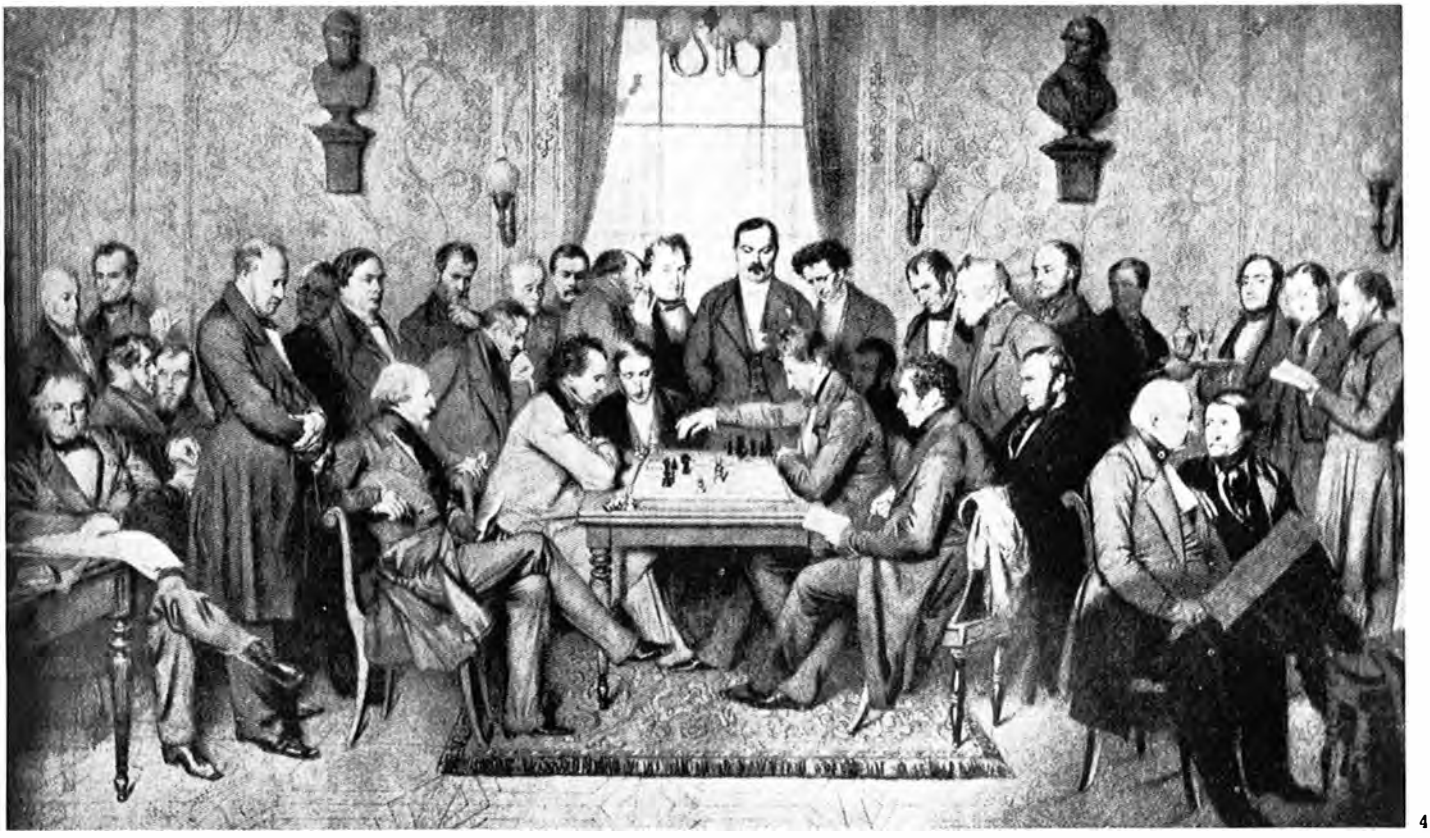
McDonnell's death from Bright's disease in 1835 prevented an intended continuation of the series. La Bourdonnais went on to found and edit the first chess magazine, *Le Palamède*, in 1836. In 1840, suffering from illness and poverty, he accepted a job as professional chess player at The Divan in London, but died only two weeks after arriving in England.

39. Pierre Charles Fournie de Saint-Amant (1800–73) was the last of the great nineteenth-century French masters. After a brief diplomatic career as secretary to the governor of French Guiana (1819–21), from which post he was fired because he published a violent attack on the local slave trade, he returned to his native land and became a wine merchant in Paris. He began to frequent the Café de la Régence and gradually became a fine, often brilliant, player. In 1836 he visited England and defeated all comers, and after La Bourdonnais's death in 1840, he was generally thought to be the strongest player in Europe. He revived *Le Palamède* and edited it until 1847, conscientiously recording the beginning of modern chess history. In 1843, Saint-Amant was defeated by Howard Staunton for the de facto world chess championship in their celebrated match at the Café de la Régence in Paris. Though certainly a more brilliant and speculative player than his opponent, Saint-Amant lacked the dogged determination to win such a grueling match (there were no adjournments and no time limits in the smoky, crowded room). After this defeat, except for a fourth place in the Birmingham tournament of 1858, Saint-Amant played no more serious chess. He died in Algeria in 1873.

40. One of the most important and controversial figures in the development of modern chess was Howard Staunton (1810–74). A prolific writer, he founded the *Chess Player's Chronicle* (the second English chess magazine) in 1841 and edited it until 1854. He also ran *The Chess Monthly* (1865–69) and wrote a weekly chess column in the *Illustrated London News* from 1844 until 1874. In these periodicals and in his famous book on the great London tournament of 1851 Staunton, the illegitimate son of an English nobleman who refused to recognize him, displayed a vituperative and self-serving pen. The contemporary view of his personality (as expressed in the *City of London Chess Magazine*, July 1874), that he "often acted, not only with a signal lack of generosity, but also with gross unfairness toward those from whom he suffered defeat, or whom he imagined likely to stand between him and the sun," is clearly accurate.

Staunton's plodding, cautious style frustrated most of his rather romantic and impetuous contemporaries. It is possible that after defeating Saint-Amant in 1843 he was, for a few years at least, the strongest player in the world, and he duly proclaimed himself world champion. In London in 1851 he organized the first international chess tournament ever held and succeeded in getting many of the leading European players to compete, but this event proved to be the beginning of his decline. In his second match in the tournament he was decisively beaten by young Adolf Anderssen of Germany, who went on to win first prize. Staunton tried to blame his own poor health for his defeat in his book about the tournament, but it was clear to all that the better man had won. Although he still considered himself to be the world's foremost player, Staunton's ignominious avoidance of a match with Paul Morphy in 1858, by means of a long series of flimsy excuses, marked the end of his playing career.

His fame as a writer, however, is very well deserved. In 1847 he published *The Chess Players' Handbook*, a thorough and lucid text which was the most popular English chess book for over 60 years. In 1849 he followed with *The Chess Players' Companion* and, in 1860, *Chess Praxis*, his last major work. All three books are well annotated and contain much interesting openings theory. Staunton, however, a frustrated scholar, considered his generally pedestrian and uninteresting edition of Shakespeare to be his greatest achievement.



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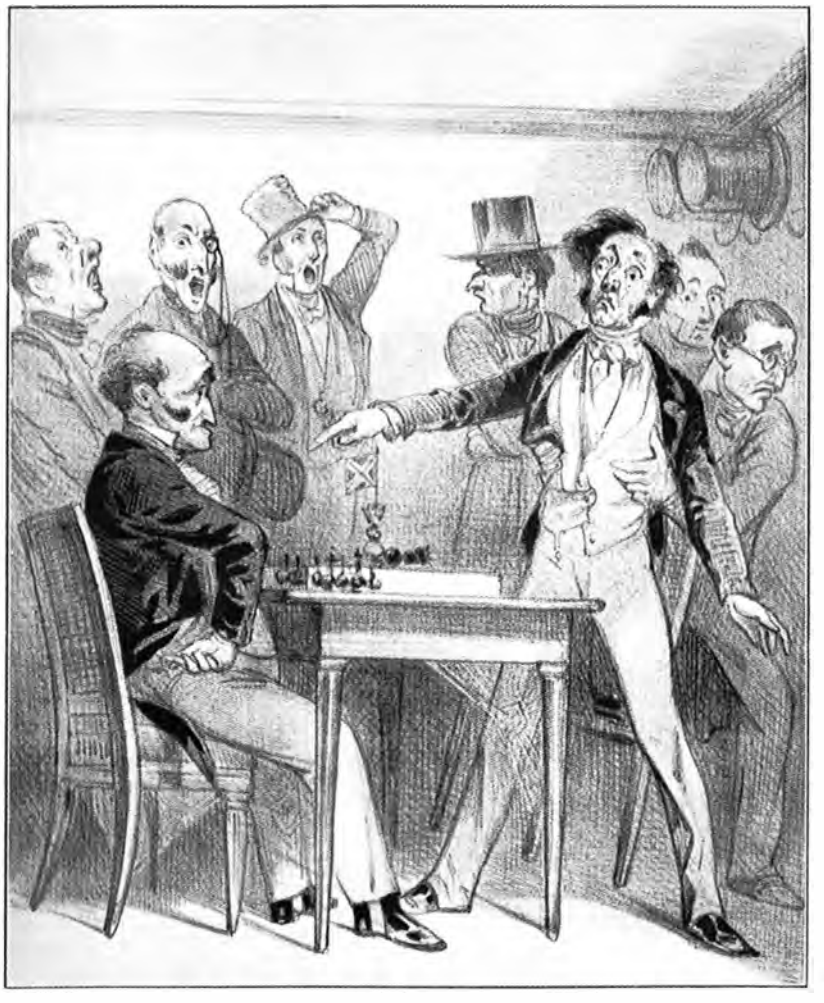


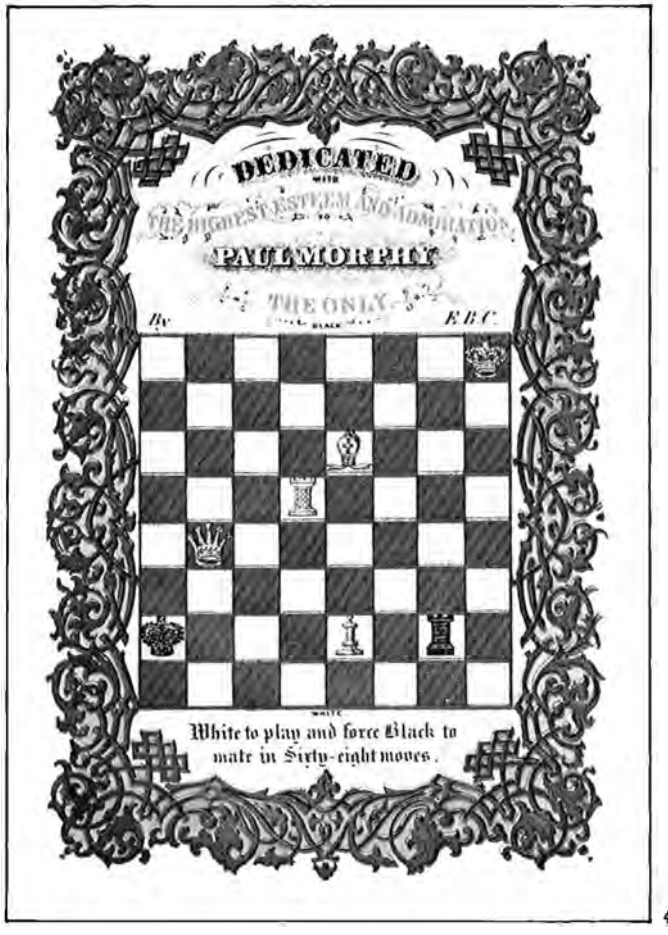
42

41. The Staunton–Saint-Amant match (Paris, 1843), from an engraving after a contemporary portrait by Marlet. Note, even in this slightly idealized picture, the very crowded playing area. In our day, Bobby Fischer has refused to play if there are any spectators within 20 feet of him.

42. A contemporary caricature of the same match, depicting the Frenchman in an unlikely fit of rage after his loss. The three Englishmen on the left are singing the national anthem, indicative of the great boost of national pride caused by Staunton's victory. He was, for a while, considered a hero.

43. "Chess Celebrities," an engraving made from photographs of the Liverpool Chess Club meeting held to adopt a national chess code, and published in the *Illustrated London News* in June 1855. Most of the important players living in England were present. They are, from left to right, Johann Löwenthal, Jules Arnous de Rivière, Marmaduke Wyvill (who took second place in the great London tournament of 1851), Ernest Falkbeer (an Austrian chess writer and player who invented the violent Falkbeer Counter-Gambit), Howard Staunton, Lord Lyttelton (a wealthy chess patron) and Capt. H. A. Kennedy.

Not pictured, but also present, was Bernhard Horwitz (1807-85), a fine German player who eventually settled in England and became a successful chess author specializing in chess endings. These are composed studies of positions similar to those that occur in an actual game—as opposed to chess problems, which are artificially created positions. Horwitz, collaborating with J. Kling, produced the first great collection of endings in 1851, entitled *Chess Studies; or, Endings of Games.* Today there are many people who hardly play chess at all but take much delight in solving endings or problems.



44

THE BOOK OF THE FIRST

AMERICAN CHESS CONGRESS:

CONTAINING THE PROCEEDINGS OF THAT CELEBRATED ASSEMBLAGE, HELD IN NEW YORK, IN THE YEAR 1857, WITH THE PAPERS READ IN ITS SESSIONS, THE GAMES PLAYED IN THE GRAND TOURNAMENT, AND THE STRATAGEMS ENTERED IN THE PROBLEM TOURNAY; TOGETHER WITH SKETCHES OF THE HISTORY OF CHESS IN THE OLD AND NEW WORLDS.

BY

DANIEL WILLARD FISKE, M.A.

NEW YORK:
RUDD & CARLETON, 130 GRAND STREET,
(BROOKS BUILDING, COR. OF BROADWAY.)
MDCCCLIX.

45

44 & 45. Frontispiece and title page of *The Book of the First American Chess Congress* by Daniel Willard Fiske. Besides giving all the games played in the first American championship tournament (won by Morphy), the book remains the basic source for the history of early American chess.

Fiske, who later became librarian of Cornell University, was a linguistic scholar and a great chess enthusiast and organizer. He also edited *The Chess Monthly* from 1857 to 1861, the finest and most beautifully produced early American periodical, and even secured the assistance of Paul Morphy for annotating games in many issues between 1857 and 1860.

46

46. Paul Morphy (1837-84), the first American world champion, is perhaps the most extraordinary figure in the history of chess. During a professional playing career of less than two years (October 1857 to May 1859) he defeated, with the exception of the reluctant Staunton, all the world's best players, compiling a record which includes crushing match victories over Lowenthal, Paulsen, Harrwitz and Anderssen. His great victories and abrupt early retirement have made Morphy a legend in chess history, a legend which also centers on the tragedy of severe mental illness which clouded Morphy's later life.

His effect on the history of the game was, however, beyond measure. Morphy's intuitive appreciation and demonstration of the most important principles of chess (quick development, mobility, control of central squares, attacking only when justified by positional superiority) helped revolutionize chess strategy as the game entered the second half of the nineteenth century.

47. Morphy (right) playing a social game with Louis Elkin in Philadelphia in 1859. After returning from his European tour Morphy briefly edited a chess column for the *New York Daily Ledger*, his last serious creative work in chess.

47

48. A rare photograph of Morphy making a move against Louis Paulsen during the First American Chess Congress (New York, 1857).

Morphy was the first true child prodigy in chess. He learned the moves at the age of eight, and before he was 12 had beaten the strongest players in New Orleans, his home, and had even had one of his games published in *La Régence*, a French magazine. In May 1850 he won a brief match from the strong master Lowenthal, who was visiting America—Morphy was not yet 13. In 1855 Morphy was admitted to the bar of the state of Louisiana on the condition that he not practice law until he was 21. After winning the New York tournament of 1857 (he crushed the favorite, Louis Paulsen, 6-2 in their match), a subscription was arranged to send Morphy to England, where it was hoped a match could be brought about between him and Staunton. While Staunton dodged the challenge, Morphy beat everyone worth playing, including the mighty Anderssen.

Although he returned to America a hero, signs of Morphy's strange dissatisfaction with chess began to appear—at a banquet in New York, he took great exception to the chairman's remark that he was a chess professional and shouted that chess "should not be indulged in to the detriment of other and more serious avocations." Although he visited Europe again twice, he did not play any serious chess, and in 1869 stopped playing even informal games with his close friend Maurian.

A. Anderssen.

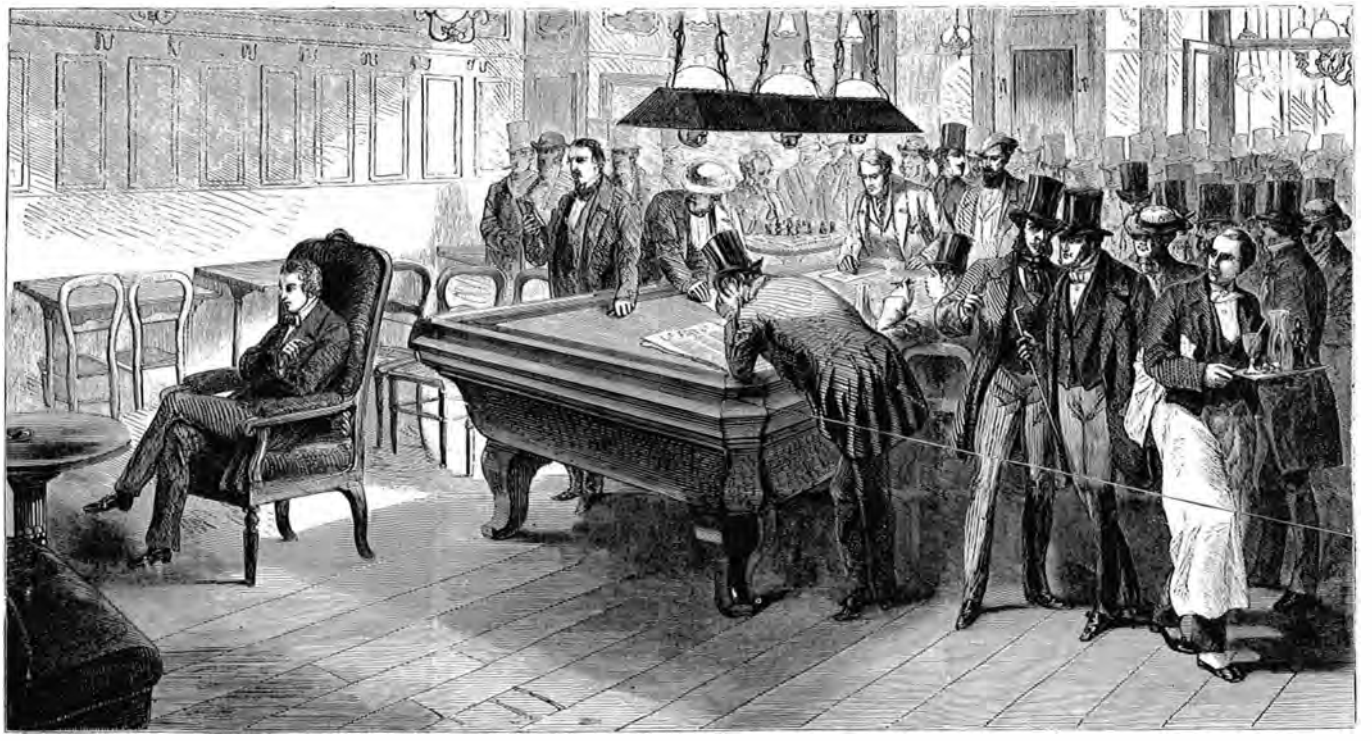
49. Adolf Anderssen (1818–79) was a pleasant, mild-mannered German mathematics teacher who was also one of the most formidable attacking players of the nineteenth century. Although his handling of the openings was not as accurate as that of Morphy or the mature Steinitz, he had a gift for finding amazing sacrificial attacks and created many extraordinarily beautiful combinations. He is generally considered to be the fourth world champion—from 1859, when Morphy quit serious play, until 1866, when he lost a grueling match to Steinitz (8–6 with no draws), he was clearly the strongest player in the world. His style was more suited to tournaments than to match play, as evidenced by his victories in the great London tournaments of 1851 and 1862 and in the mammoth double-round Baden-Baden tournament of 1870. He also finished third at Vienna in 1873 and second at Leipzig in 1877, despite being considerably older than most of his opponents—he was 18 years older than both Steinitz and Morphy when he lost to them. Incredibly, he did not even begin his chess career until he was 30, due to his fear of losing his teaching position at the Breslau school. In studying Anderssen's remarkable career, the impression is that of a great talent never allowed to flourish fully—perhaps he lacked that final ounce of confidence or conceit that would have given him the courage to devote himself totally to chess.

50. A remarkable group portrait, taken in London around 1873, of the chess elite of this era.

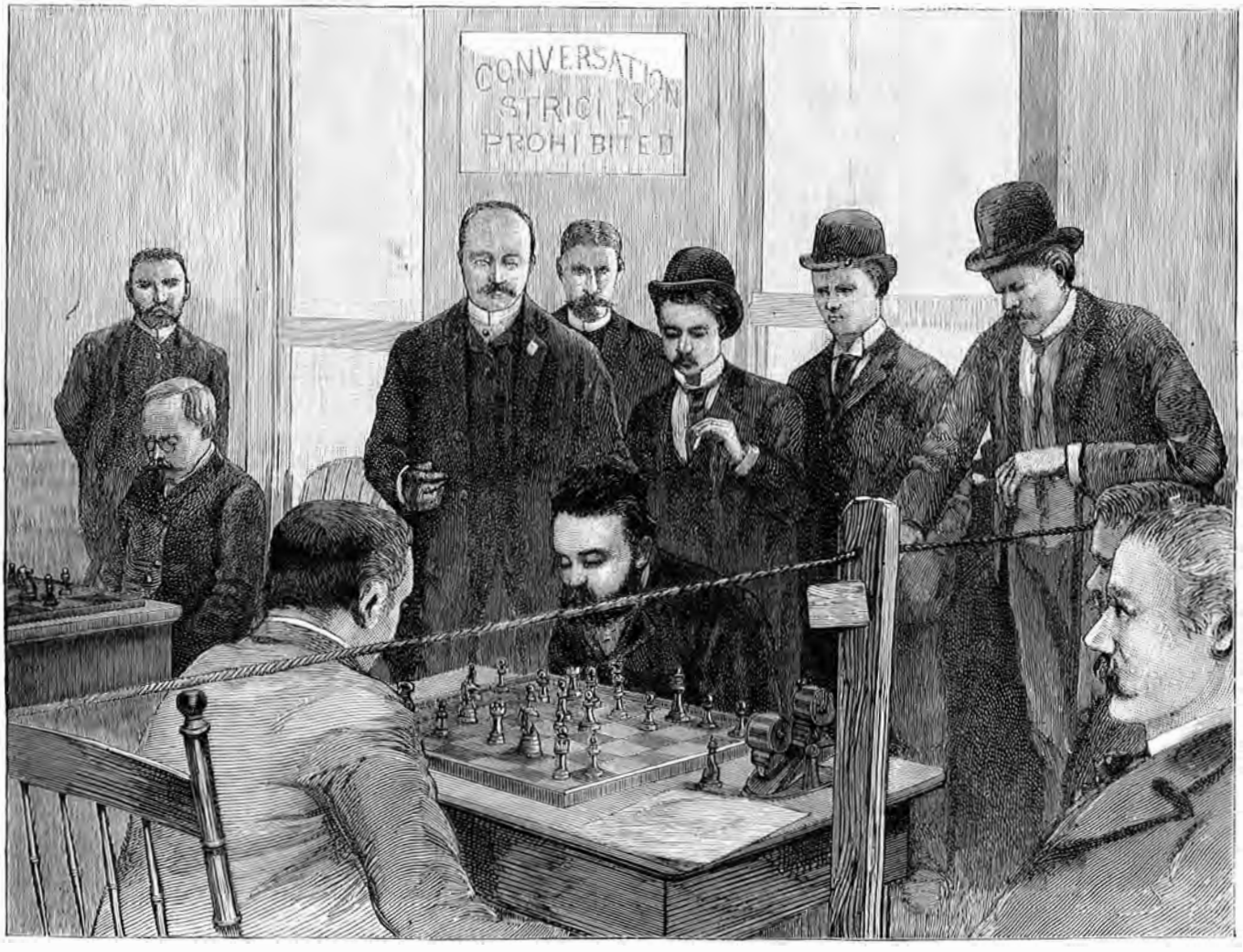
Standing, from left to right, are Baron Kolisch, Bernhard Horwitz, William Norwood Potter, Johann Löwenthal, H. E. Bird, Joseph Henry Blackburne and an unidentified amateur. Seated are Wilhelm Steinitz, H. F. Gastineau (a patron) and Cecil De Vere.

51. "Sketches at the International Chess Tournament" appeared in *The Illustrated London News*, May 5, 1883.

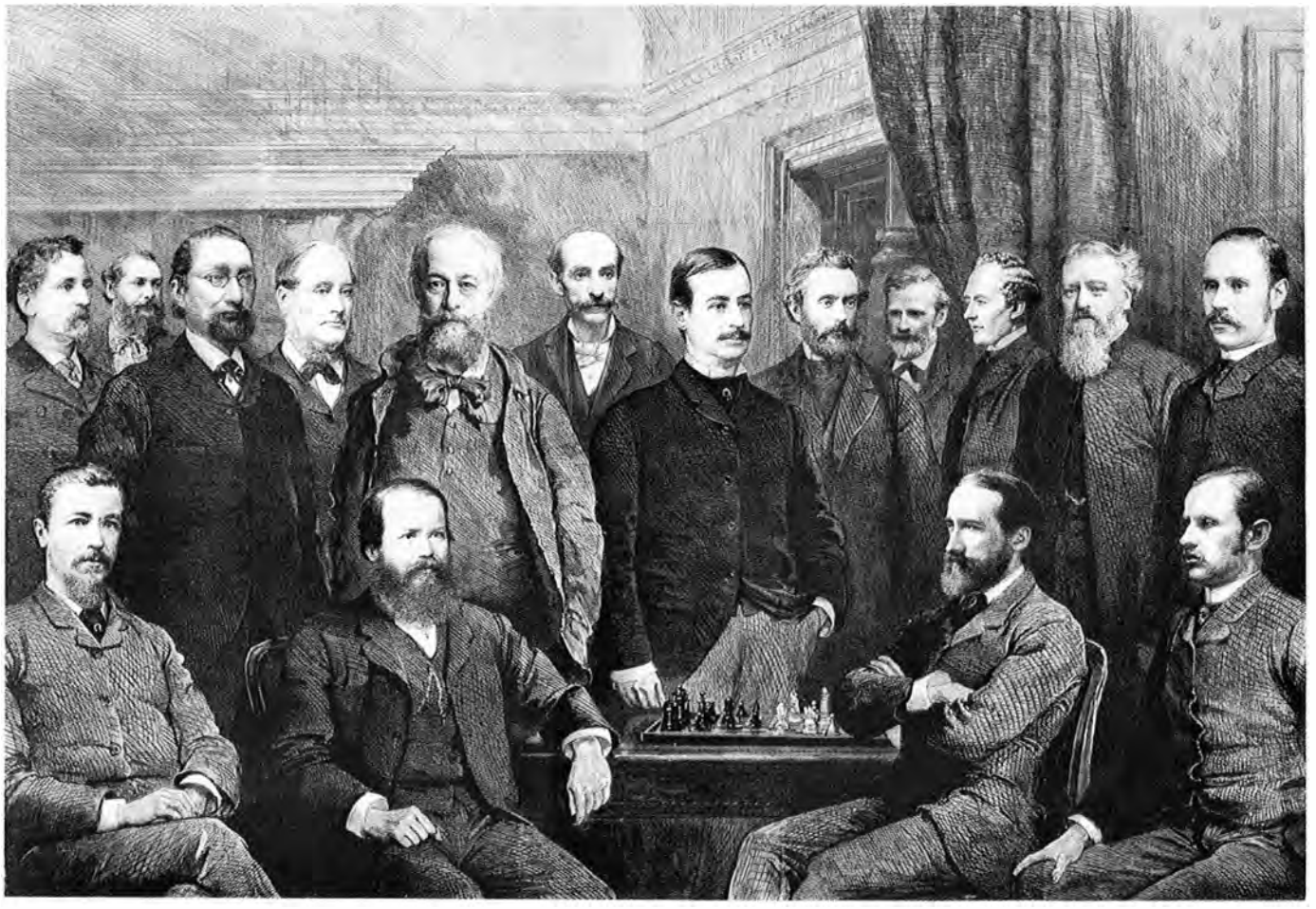
52. "A Game at Chess" appeared in *The Illustrated London News*, May 25, 1889.



53. On November 13, 1858, *Harper's Weekly* published this illustration depicting Paul Morphy playing eight simultaneous games "blindfold" at the Café de la Régence.



54. Tchigorin and Weiss play during the Sixth American Chess Congress, New York 1889.



55. The July 17, 1886 issue of *The Graphic* contained this illustration, "The Sixteen Leading Chess Players of the World." Standing (left to right): Maj. George Mackenzie, I. Kolisch, S. Winawer, H. E. Bird, J. A. de Rivière, S. Rosenthal, James Mason, W. Norwood Potter, Emil Schallopp. Louis Paulsen, G. A. MacDonnell, Isidor Gunsberg. Seated are (left to right): J. H. Blackburne, W. Steinitz, J. H. Zukertort, B. Englisch.

56

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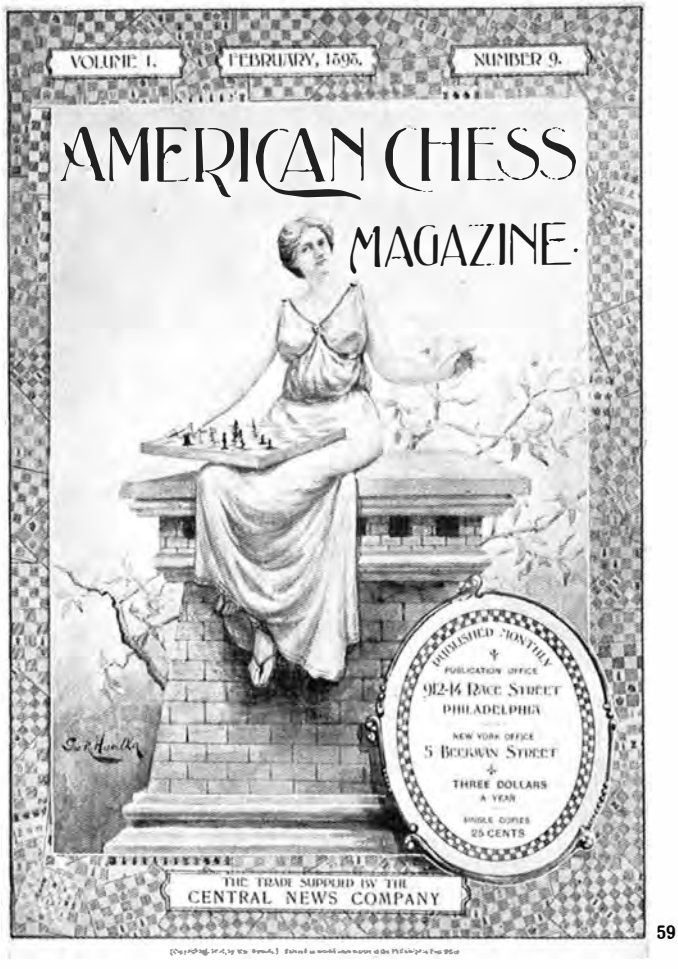
58

56. Max Judd (1852-1906) was another major American master during this period. He played in all the American Chess Congresses from the second through the sixth, his best result being second behind James Mason at Philadelphia in 1876.

57. Jackson W. Showalter (1860-1935) was probably the strongest native-born nineteenth-century American player after Morphy and Pillsbury. A brilliant attacking player, he was erratic in tournaments, although in individual encounters he often trounced many of the world's top players, including Maroczy, Teichmann, Tchigorin, Marshall and Steinitz. As a match player he was a tough opponent—he lost a close match to Pillsbury for the U.S. championship in 1897, and in 1893 lost a hard-fought match to Emanuel Lasker. He won two short matches from Janowski in 1899, and was unofficially U.S. champion in 1890-92 and 1906-09.

58. Albert B. Hodges (1861-1944) was a perennial New York State and Manhattan Chess Club champion during the 1890s. A solid player, he was briefly U.S. champion after defeating Showalter in an 1894 match. He was the most consistent player for the United States team during the series of Anglo-American cable matches (13 were held from 1896 until 1911, the cumulative result a 6½-6½ tie), in which he did not lose a game.



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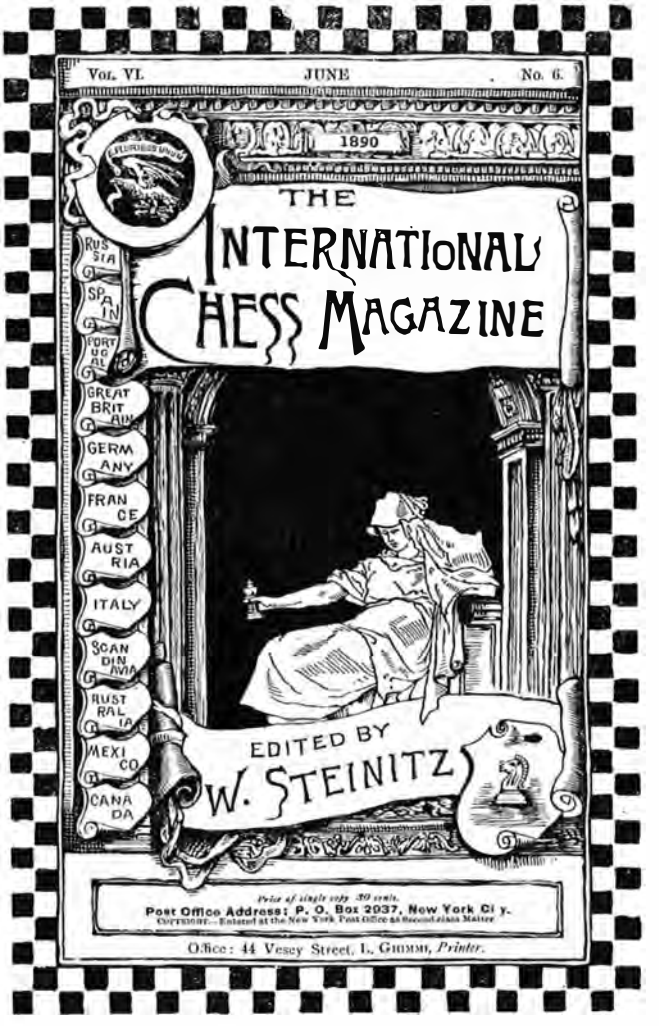

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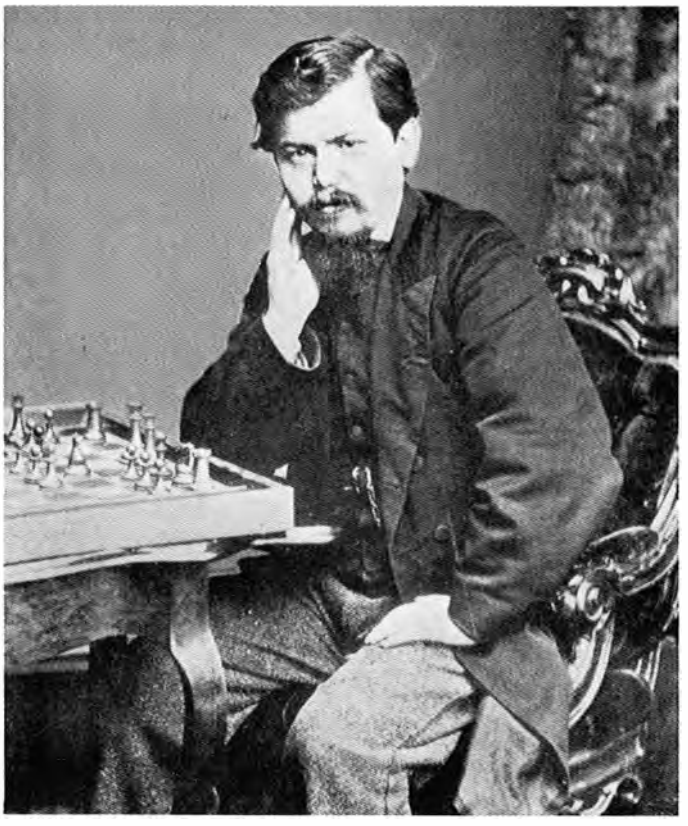
59 & 60. Two popular chess periodicals of the nineteenth century. There have been over 600 different chess magazines—and over 150 in the English language alone.

61. Johannes Hermann Zukertort, loser to Wilhelm Steinitz in 1886 of the first *official* match for the world chess championship, was born in Lublin, Poland on September 7, 1842. His family later moved to Breslau, where in 1862 he became Anderssen's favorite pupil. He made rapid progress despite his many other activities during the next ten years—he was a doctor and combat surgeon as well as a writer and a master of other games besides chess. After a third place in the London tournament of 1872, Zukertort challenged Steinitz to a match, but was not yet ready for such an encounter and was soundly defeated. However, the successes came: he finished second at Leipzig in 1877, first at Paris in 1878, and won matches from Blackburne and Rosenthal in 1880 and 1881. His greatest win was in the double-round London tournament of 1883 where he was three points ahead of Steinitz, his nearest rival. Unfortunately, he pushed himself too hard and suffered a nervous collapse. Recovering sufficiently to challenge Steinitz again, a match was arranged in the United States for the then considerable purse of $2000. Zukertort took an early lead, but was finally ground down and defeated 10 to 5, with 5 draws. He died on June 19, 1888.



62. Young Steinitz, from a photograph taken during his match with Anderssen in 1866. In his youth he was a reckless player, delighting so much in gambits and sharp play that he was nicknamed "the Austrian Morphy." But as he matured he evolved a totally different style based on cold logic, which he practiced and expounded so well that he is now justly considered to be "the father of modern chess."

Wilhelm Steinitz was born in Prague on May 17, 1836. He was sent to study mathematics in Vienna, but insufficient funds and poor health forced him to drop out in 1858. Fortunately, he had learned chess as a child, and Vienna was a great center of chess activity. Penniless but too proud to return home, he began to eke out a living playing chess in the local coffee houses, where he became something of a phenomenon for his blindfold and odds-giving play. By 1861 he had won the championship of the Vienna Chess Club. In 1862 Steinitz visited England to play in the London tournament and remained there until 1884, when he moved to New York—he eventually became a naturalized American citizen. During the years 1862–94 he won every match he played, 27 in all, and was world champion for 28 years (1866–94), longer than anyone else in the history of chess. He won or tied for first in eight international tournaments, completely dominating his contemporaries. After finally losing his title to the young Lasker in 1894, lack of funds forced him to play on, and for a few years he was still successful—fifth place at Hastings 1895, a magnificent second at St. Petersburg 1896, fourth at Vienna 1898. But bad health and public apathy combined to destroy him; Steinitz died in New York on August 12, 1900—a charity patient in the East River Sanitorium on Ward's Island.

Through his games and writings (especially *The Modern Chess Instructor* (1889) and *The International Chess Magazine* (1885-91), Steinitz formulated what Petrosian has called the first "logical philosophy of chess," a concrete theory of how to appraise all chess positions. Not only was he the first to articulate sound known concepts, but he combined them with his own discoveries and set up a practical working system. Essentially, Steinitz considered strategy more important than tactics. Thus if you strive for a sound pawn position, maintain an equal foothold in the center, and develop your pieces quickly and accurately, you will then be able to resist all unjustified attacks, improve your position through "the accumulation of small advantages," and eventually triumph through the correct exploitation of positional superiority. Naturally Steinitz was the first great endgame player, and many of his greatest achievements were long games where he slowly ground his opponent down. He was unjustly accused of being dull, of taking the fun out of chess, for his theories helped bring an end to superficially attractive but unsound gambit play in serious tournaments.

Steinitz' ideas influenced the entire next generation of chess players, who modified and improved them and sometimes distorted them. He left a legacy that few can equal.

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65

63. A rare photograph of the players in the great double-round international tournament held in Paris in 1878. Standing, from left to right, are Englisch, Gifford, Winawer and Mason. Seated are Anderssen, Zukertort (the winner), Bird, Steinitz (who did not play) and Clerc.

64. Johann Jakob Löwenthal (1810–76), forced to flee his native Hungary, settled in England and became a professional chess writer and organizer. He wrote the first good book on Morphy (*Morphy's Games of Chess*, 1860) and edited the fine *Chess Player's Magazine*, which, unfortunately, lasted only from 1863 to 1867. Lowenthal's chief success as a player was first place at the Birmingham tournament of 1858, where he finished ahead of Falkbeer, Saint-Amant and Staunton.

65. William Davies Evans (1790–1872) was a ship's captain and an enthusiastic chess amateur who, in 1824, invented the marvelous Evans Gambit (1. P-K4, P-K4; 2. N-KB3, N-QB3; 3. B-B4, B-B4; 4. P-QN4, !?). A favorite attacking weapon of Morphy, Anderssen and Tchigorin, this very complicated, wild opening is rarely played today, although no absolute refutation has ever been published.

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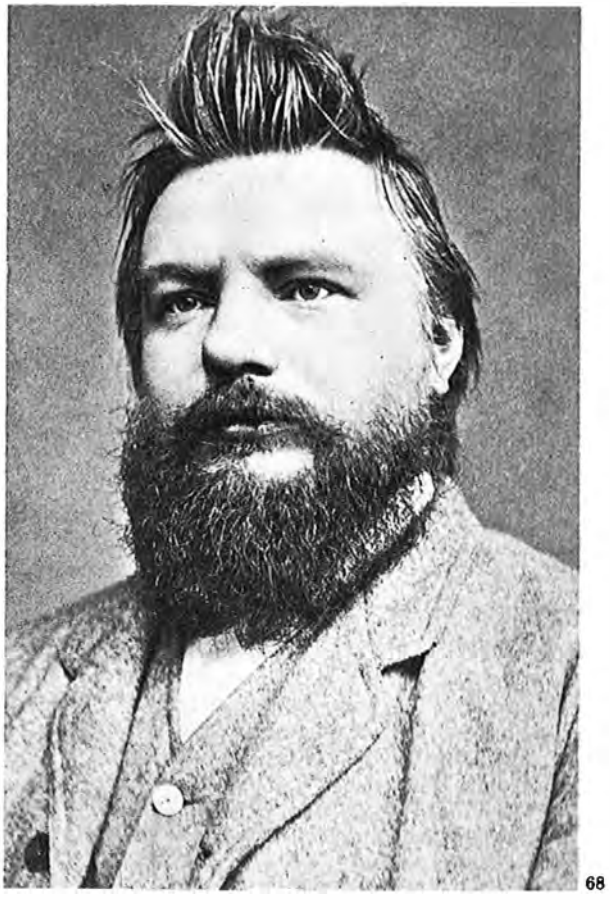

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66. Simon Winawer (1838–1919) of Poland was one of the strongest and most consistent players during the 1870s and 80s. He excelled in close positions calling for great patience and strategic skill, and his quiet stoic style brought him several remarkable successes, including first place at Nuremberg in 1883, ahead of Blackburne and Mason.

67. Baron Tassilo von Heydebrand und der Lasa (1808–99) was a chess theoretician and historian who helped organize the famous Berlin Pleiades. This group of seven strong players met in Berlin from 1837 to 1839 to study and popularize chess. Lasa completed P. R. von Bilguer's superb *Handbuch des Schachspiels*, the first edition of which was published in 1843; this magnificent book ran to eight editions (the last, edited by Schlechter, was issued in 1916 and reprinted in 1921) and was the first really reliable work on opening theory.

68. Antonius van der Linde (1833–97), a professional librarian, was the foremost chess historian and bibliographer of the nineteenth century. His *Geschichte und Litteratur des Schachspiels* (1874) is still the basic bibliography for early chess literature. In 1876 the Royal Library at The Hague purchased his extensive collection to form the backbone of the finest chess library in Europe, today containing over 19,000 volumes. It is second only to the more than 20,000 volumes in the John G. White Collection at the Cleveland Public Library. The third- and fourth-largest collections, both privately owned, belong to Lothar Schmid of West Germany and James E. Gates of Georgia, U.S.A., respectively.

Schallopp. Wilh. Paulsen. Ad. Anderssen. R. Hein. Minckwitz. Zukertort.

69

Anderssen-Feier, Leipzig 1877

R. Schurig Leipzig — Weismann Mainz — Stud. Riemann Breslau — L. Bloch Berlin — E. Flügel Prenzlau — C. v. Bardeleben Weimar

A. Lück Leipzig — Prof. Franke Celle — Stud. Metger Göttingen — v. Leitner Tessin, Mkl. — W. Paulsen Nassengrund — R. Wuttig Leipzig — H. Zwanzig Leipzig — Kr.-Ger.-Sekr. Seligo Brandenburg — R. Ackermann Leipzig

H. Credner Leipzig — H. Jahn Rudolstadt — C. Freystedt Braunschweig — J. H. Zukertort London — Dr. Schmidt Dresden — Fehr Braunschweig — A. Schottländer Breslau

Dr. Schwede Dresden — E. Schallopp Berlin — Stud. Flechsig Leipzig — Ed. Hammacher Köln a. Rh. — C. Leffmann Köln a. Rh. — R. v. Bardeleben Weimar

Dr. Knorre Berlin — Stud. Fritz Gießen — Ref. Kahne Magdeburg — Prof. Dr. Anderssen Breslau — Geh. Hofrat Gottschall Leipzig

Dr. Goering Leipzig — Dr. Lange Leipzig — L. Paulsen Blumberg — C. Wemmers Köln a. Rh. — B. Englisch Wien — J. Obermann Leipzig

70

69. An interesting photograph, probably taken in about 1870 when Zukertort (far right) was still studying under Anderssen (third from left).

70. A special festival and tournament was held in Leipzig in 1877 to honor Adolf Anderssen. The great master, although nearly 60 years old, played very well and tied for second prize with Zukertort, only one-half point behind the winner, Louis Paulsen.

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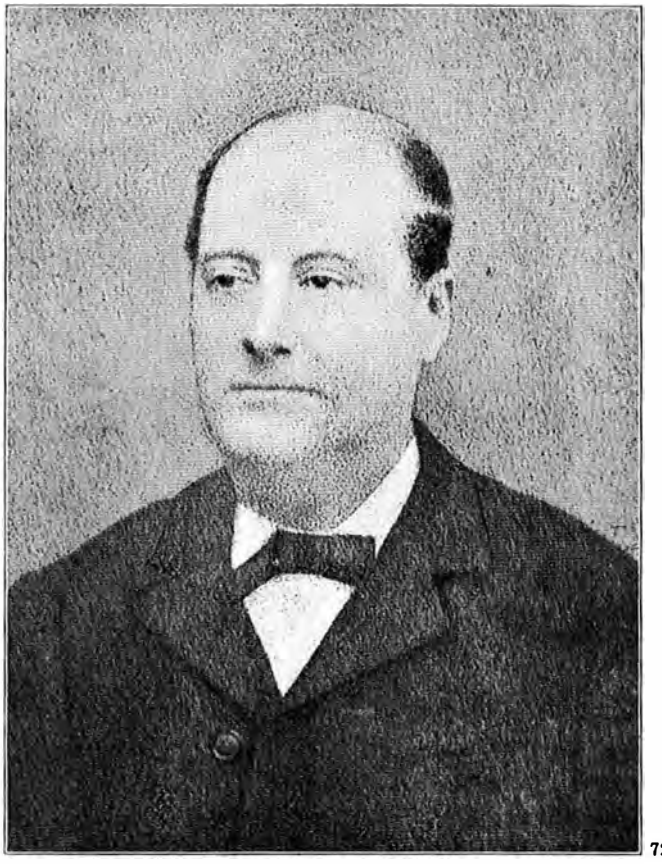

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71. Ignatz Kolisch of Hungary (1837-89) was a brilliant attacking player who, after his impressive victory in the very strong Paris tournament of 1867, seemed destined for a great chess career. Instead, he retired from professional chess, soon after his greatest victory, to become a banker, having allied himself with the Rothschild family. As a wealthy financier he became one of the game's great patrons and helped to finance a number of important tournaments.

72. Englishman Henry Edward Bird (1830-1908), an accountant by profession, had a long career as a talented amateur and was a dangerous opponent for the world's top players—in 1866 he narrowly lost a match to Steinitz 7 to 6, with 6 draws. He earned a niche in chess history for his persistent adoption of the move 1. P-KB4, appropriately known as Bird's opening.

73. Henry Thomas Buckle (1821-62), historian and author of the monumental *History of Civilization*, was also one of the strongest English masters of his time, a greater natural talent than Staunton. He disliked the amount of time and effort required for serious play, and most of his surviving games are of the "odds-giving" variety. He did, however, defeat both Kieseritzky and Löwenthal in short matches, and impressed even the great Anderssen with his play in their casual games of 1851.

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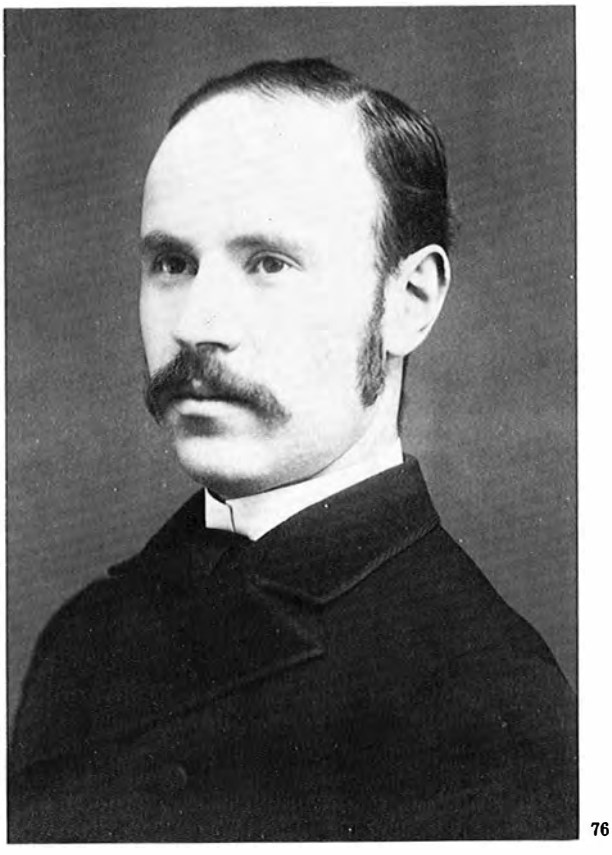

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74. Cecil De Vere (1845-75) won the first official British championship held by the British Chess Association in 1866. He then finished fifth in the Paris tournament of 1867 and tied for third in the Dundee (Scotland) Congress the same year, brilliantly beating Steinitz in their individual game. A sharp young player of great promise, he was not quite 30 when he died of tuberculosis.

75. William Norwood Potter (1840-95), a solid English master and theoretician, was for a time one of Steinitz's few close friends, and encouraged the great thinker's novel openings researches. Potter edited the excellent *City of London Chess Magazine* (1874-76) and, although he played infrequently, is said to have been second in strength only to Blackburne among English players of the 1870s and 1880s.

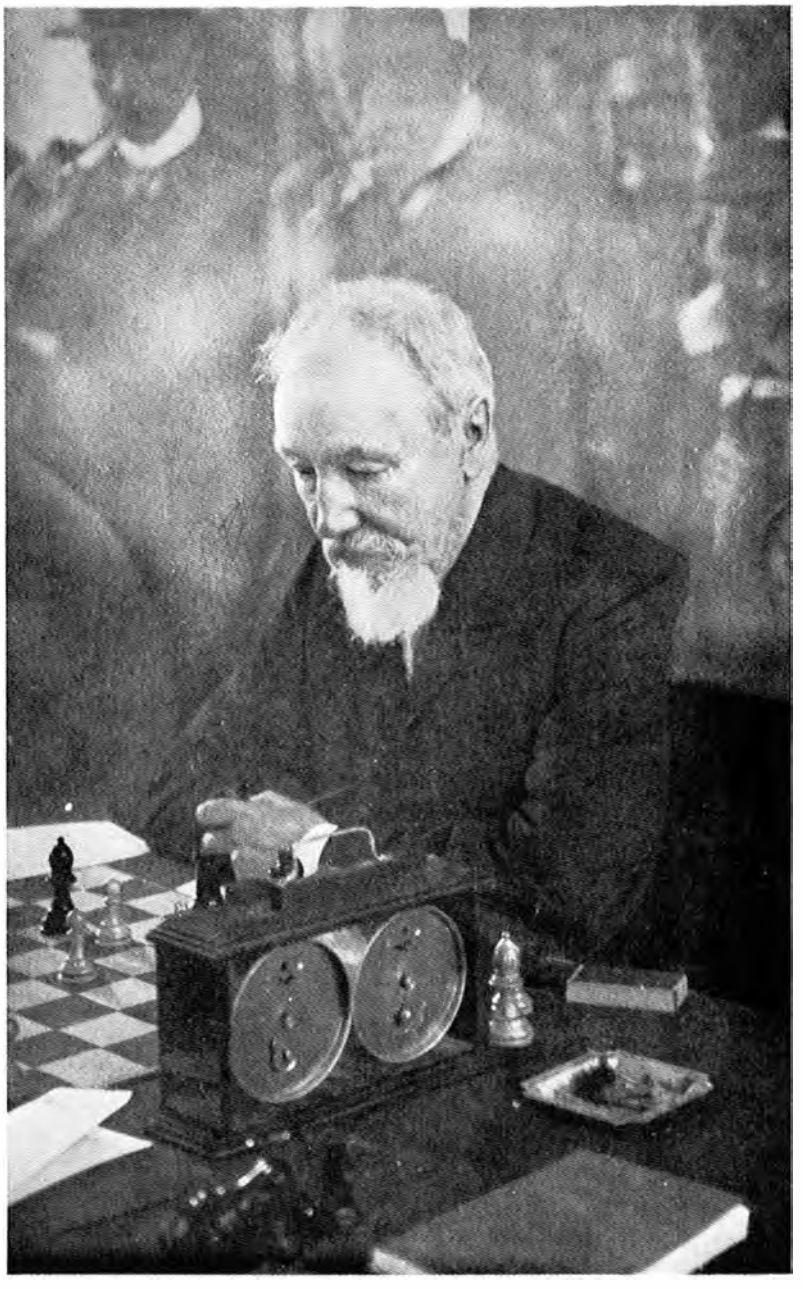
76. Isidor Gunsberg (1854-1930), a naturalized British citizen born in Hungary, embarked on a chess career at the age of 24 with a job as the operator of the automaton "Mephisto." A quiet, solid player, his best results were first place at Hamburg in 1885 and Bradford in 1888, and third place at the Sixth American Chess Congress in New York, in 1889. He also drew a match with Tchigorin in 1890 and gave Steinitz unexpectedly stiff opposition in their 1891 world championship match, losing 6 to 4, with 9 draws.

77

78

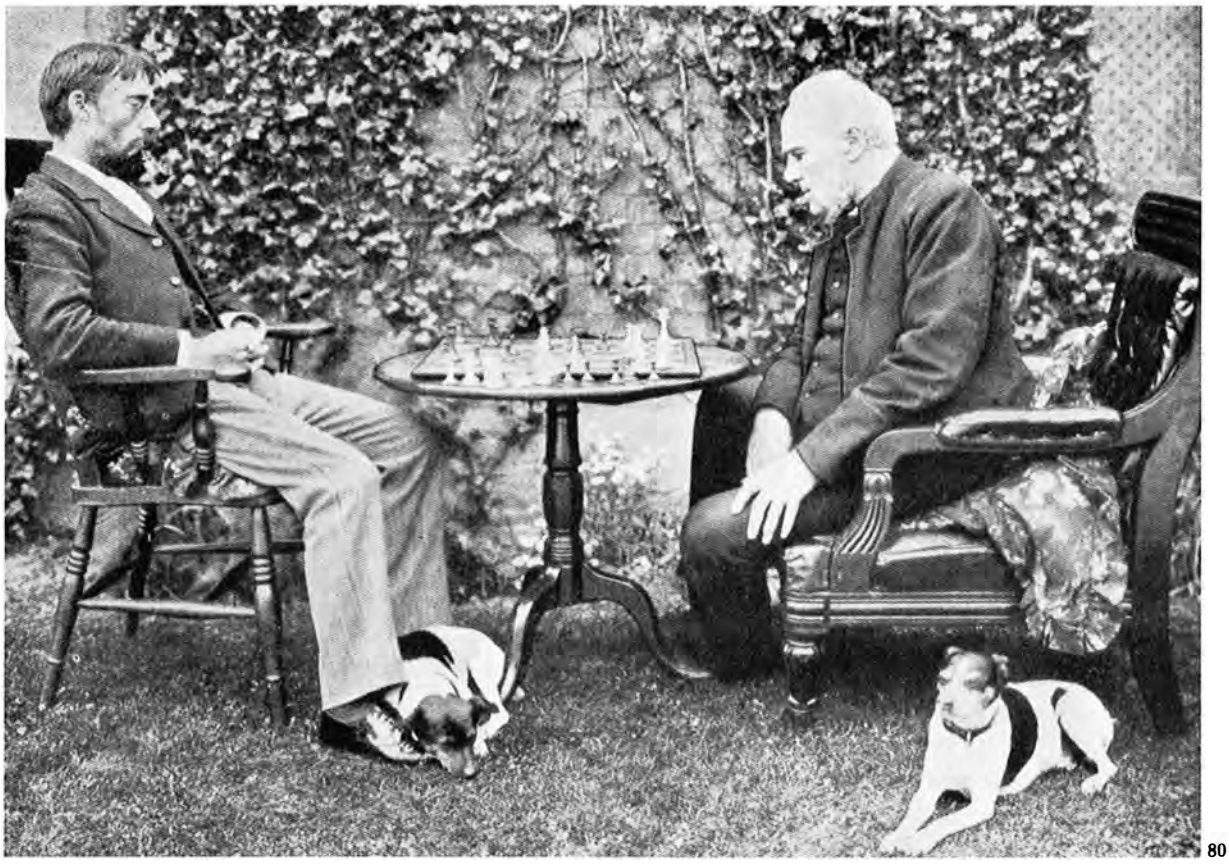
77. The Berlin Chess Congress of 1897 was young Rudolf Charousek's only international victory, his meteoric career being tragically cut short by tuberculosis only three years later. In the last round Walbrodt, his principal competition for first prize, won by forfeit, but Charousek won the tournament by decisively beating Tchigorin.

78. The participants in the International Chess Congress, St. Petersburg, 1909. Seated are Vidmar, Bernstein, Lasker, Burn, Schlechter, Rubinstein, Mieses, Salwe and Speyer. Standing in the second row are Von Freymann, Duras, Levin, S. Znosko-Borovsky, Sossnitzky, Demidov, San Donato, Saburov, Tschudowsky, Perlis, Tartakower and Teichmann. In the back row are E. Cohn, Forgacs, E. A. Znosko-Borovsky and Spielmann. This tournament developed into a magnificent struggle between Lasker and Rubinstein, who tied for first.



79. Joseph Henry Blackburne (1841-1924), generally regarded as the greatest player England ever produced, was certainly the most successful in international competition. His most notable results were second place in Vienna 1873 (behind Steinitz), a tie for first at Wiesbaden 1880, first at Berlin 1881 (ahead of Paulsen, Tchigorin, Winawer and Zukertort), fourth at New York 1889, and second at Manchester 1890 (behind Tarrasch). An extraordinarily gifted combinative player, he was nicknamed the "Black Death." Emanuel Lasker believed that he had more talent than Steinitz but lacked the willpower and capacity for hard work needed to become world champion. Blackburne was crushed by Steinitz in three matches and is said to have become so angry at his sharp-tongued tormentor that he once pushed him out of a window—fortunately from the first floor.

Blackburne gave many simultaneous and blindfold exhibitions which, coupled with his exciting style of play, contributed to making him the most popular and beloved British master of his time. He was fond of liquor and created an uproar when he admitted in an 1899 magazine interview that he occasionally drank during play. However, this never seemed to affect his playing ability, and it was said that "Blackburne showed how an Englishman *could* drink while poor James Mason showed how an Englishman *would* drink." Like most great players he was capable of producing fine chess even at an advanced age. His last achievement was a tie for first with Yates in the British championship at Chester in 1914 when he was 73 years old, although poor health forced him to forfeit the playoff match.



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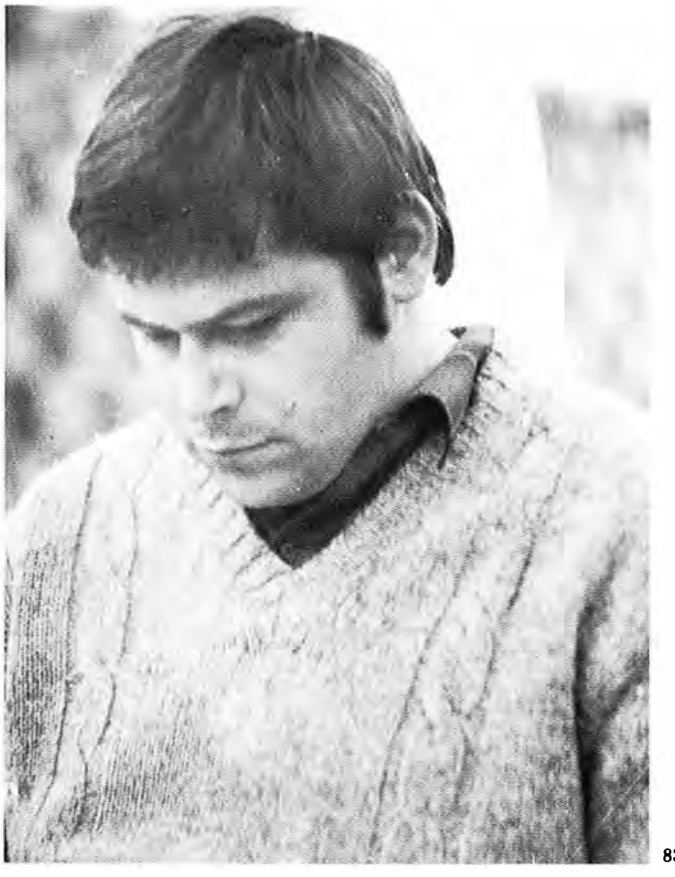
80. Amos Burn (1848-1925) and the Rev. John Owen, a strong amateur, about 1885.

Burn was one of the stalwarts of late nineteenth-century British chess. He was a solid and cold-blooded player who felt that the best way to refute any sacrifice was to accept it. Although he ended up on the wrong end of several brilliancies, many of his best games are fine examples of patient and aggressive defense. His best results were first place at Amsterdam 1889 (ahead of Lasker), second at Breslau 1889 (behind Tarrasch), and first at the strong Cologne tournament of 1898, ahead of Charousek, Steinitz, Tchigorin and Schlechter.

81. James Mason (1849-1905) was born in Ireland and raised in the United States. He learned chess at 18 and, advancing rapidly, in 1876 won the Fourth American Chess Congress at Philadelphia. In 1878 he settled in England and quickly established himself as one of the strongest masters of his day. Unfortunately, his love of liquor conflicted with his love of chess and he never quite achieved the success that he might have. His finest games display a marked lack of interest in gaining an advantage in the opening, but astute and lethal tactical perception in the middle game. He is best remembered today for his chess writings; Mason's attractive and lucid style is best exemplified in his two classics, *The Principles of Chess* (1893) and *The Art of Chess* (1895).

82



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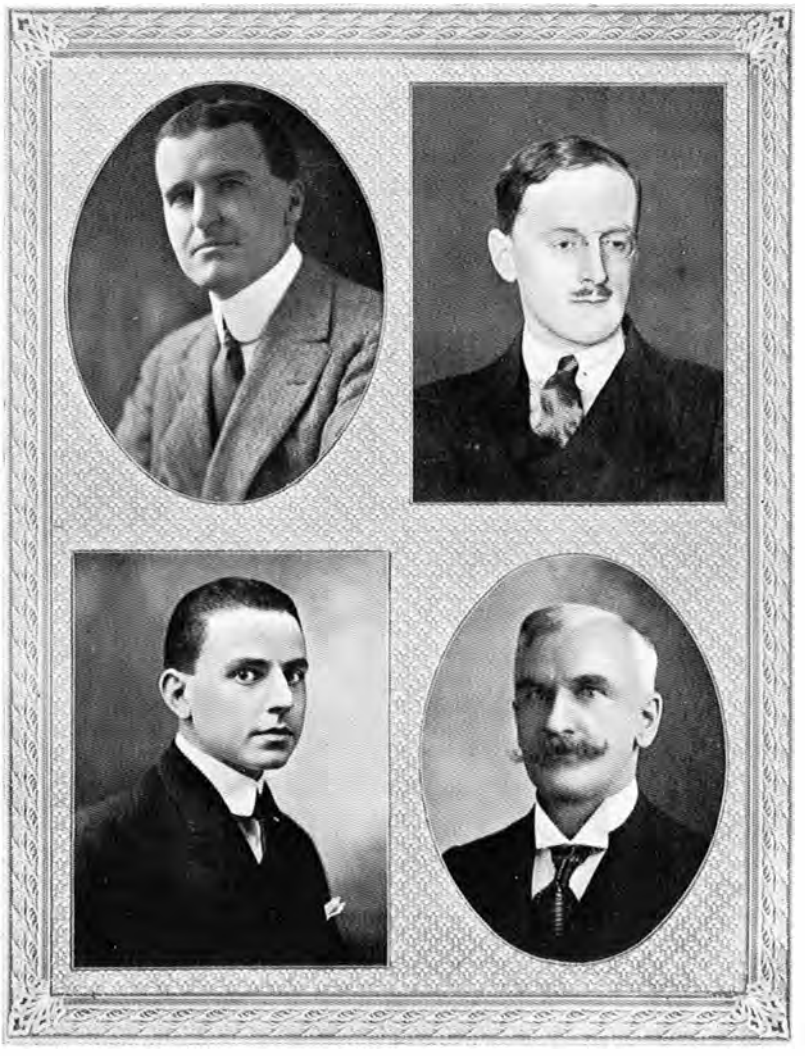
82. Samuel Rosenthal (1837-1902) playing 30 opponents simultaneously in Paris in 1867. Rosenthal, a Polish emigre, had a dashing if somewhat unsound style which appealed to the gallery but was not suited to winning high prizes in topflight competition. He was the unofficial "chess king" of Paris for many years until displaced by a younger and even more talented and dashing Polish expatriate, David Janowski.

83. Vlastimil Hort (1944-), the Czech master, set the present world's record for a simultaneous display in Reykjavik in 1977. Beginning with 200 opponents who were replaced as soon as each game ended, he played 550 games in a marathon that lasted over 24 hours. His record: 477 wins, 63 draws and only 10 losses.

84. Samuel Loyd (1841-1911) is certainly the most famous—possibly the greatest—chess-problem composer of all time. A native American, Loyd spent his entire life creating all kinds of puzzles, but devoted most of his fantastic ingenuity to the art of the chess problem. He composed well over 700 problems, using a wide range of themes, and is especially noted for his consistently amazing and unexpected "key moves" (the first move in the correct solution). Virtually his entire output was collected in *Sam Loyd and His Chess Problems* by Alain C. White (1913) one of the most entertaining books in the whole of chess literature.



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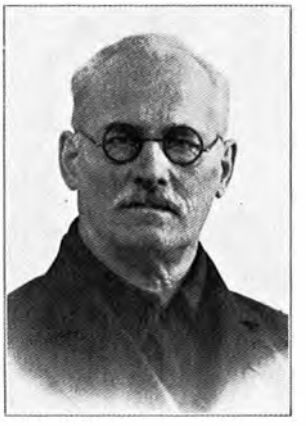

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85. Four distinguished chess problemists. *Top*: Alain C. White (1880–1951), editor and publisher of the magnificent 44-volume Christmas Series of problem books and Brian Harley (1883–1955), a leading specialist in two- and three-move problems who coined the problem term "mutate" ("a cumbrous looking situation of many variations, in which the Key alters one or two commonplace mates"). *Bottom*; Arnaldo Ellerman (1893–1969), probably the greatest two-move composer who published almost 5,000 problems in his lifetime and won over 100 first prizes, and William Anthony Shinkman (1847–1933), an eclectic composer who produced an enormous body of work (over 3,500 problems of all lengths and types) and who is considered the finest American problemist after Sam Loyd.

86. Aleksey A. Troitzky (1866–1942) was one of the greatest practitioners of the modern endgame study. He composed over 1,000 studies, 360 of which are collected in his *Chess Studies*, first published in English in 1937. Sadly, he died during the siege of Leningrad while at work on corrected versions of some of his most famous studies, which had been found to be unsound. He also did the initial, and still most important research on the incredibly difficult ending of king and two knights vs. king and pawn (which is often a win for the stronger side and frequently takes more than 50 moves to force).

The most esteemed endgame theorist of recent times was André Chéron (1895–1980). His monumental four-volume *Lehr und Handbuch der Endspiele* (1952–70) is the most thorough and definitive work ever done on endgame theory.

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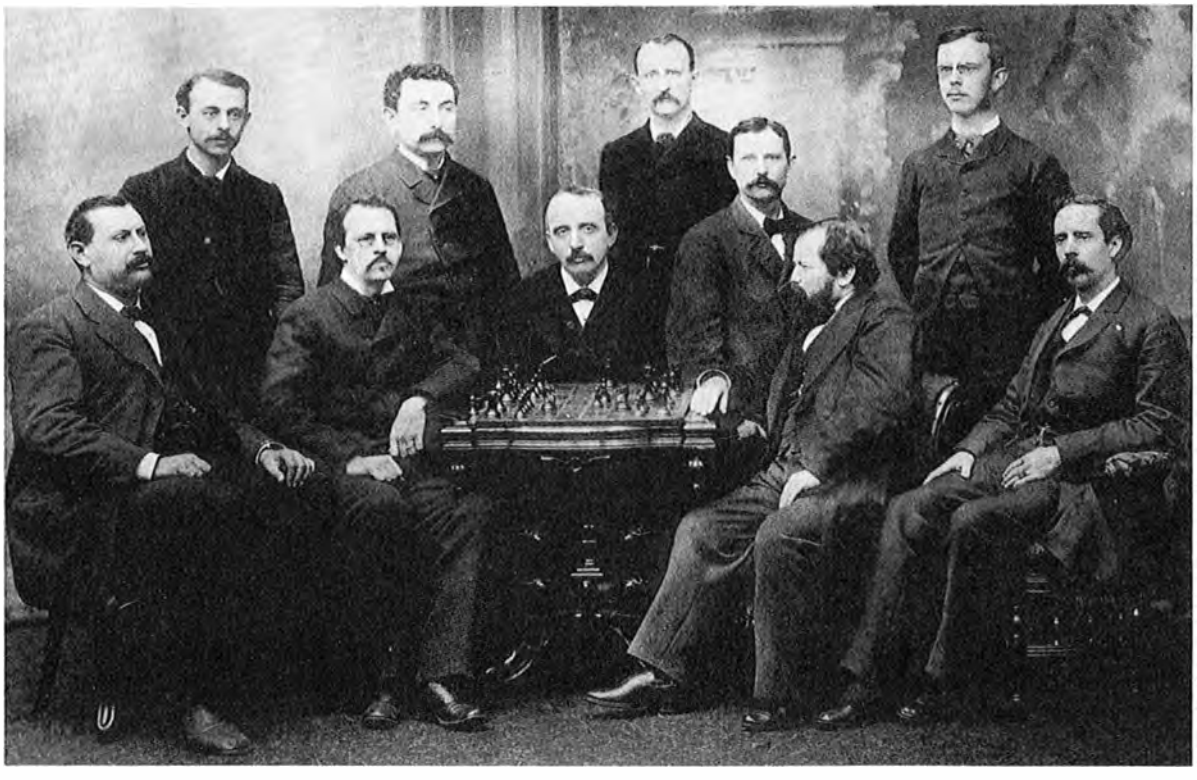

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87. John F. Barry (1873-1940), a Boston lawyer and one of the strongest American amateurs; his best result was a narrowly lost match to Pillsbury in 1893, 5 to 4, with many draws.

88. Jules Arnous de Rivière (1830-1905) of France is chiefly remembered for having lost many off-hand games to Morphy; it is not generally known that he extended the mighty Tchigorin in a match at Paris in 1883, narrowly losing 5 to 4, with 1 draw.

89. Wilhelm Steinitz (seated at the right side of the table) with members of the Philadelphia Chess Club in 1882.

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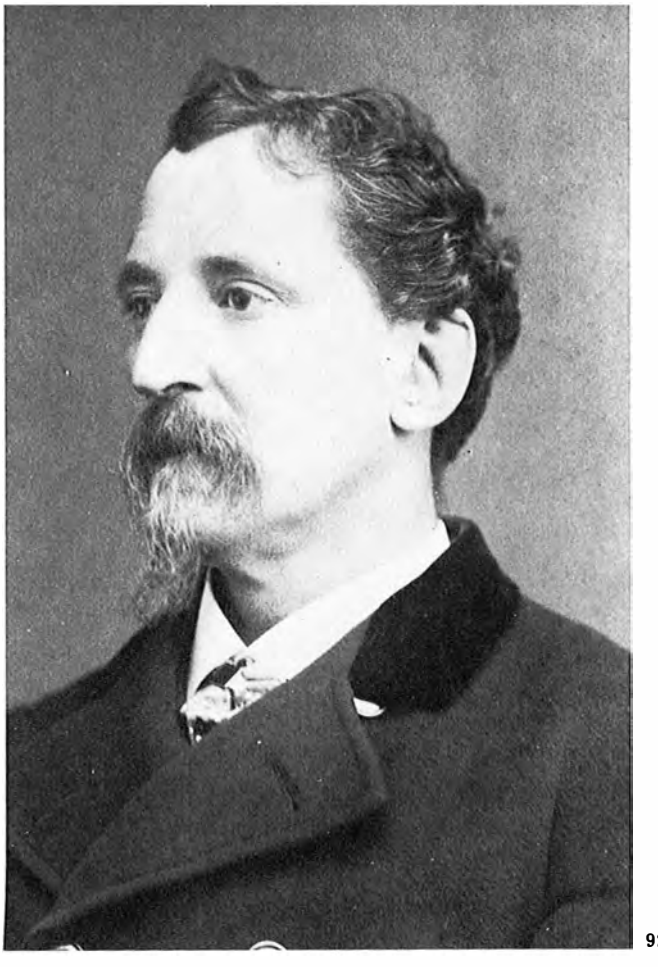

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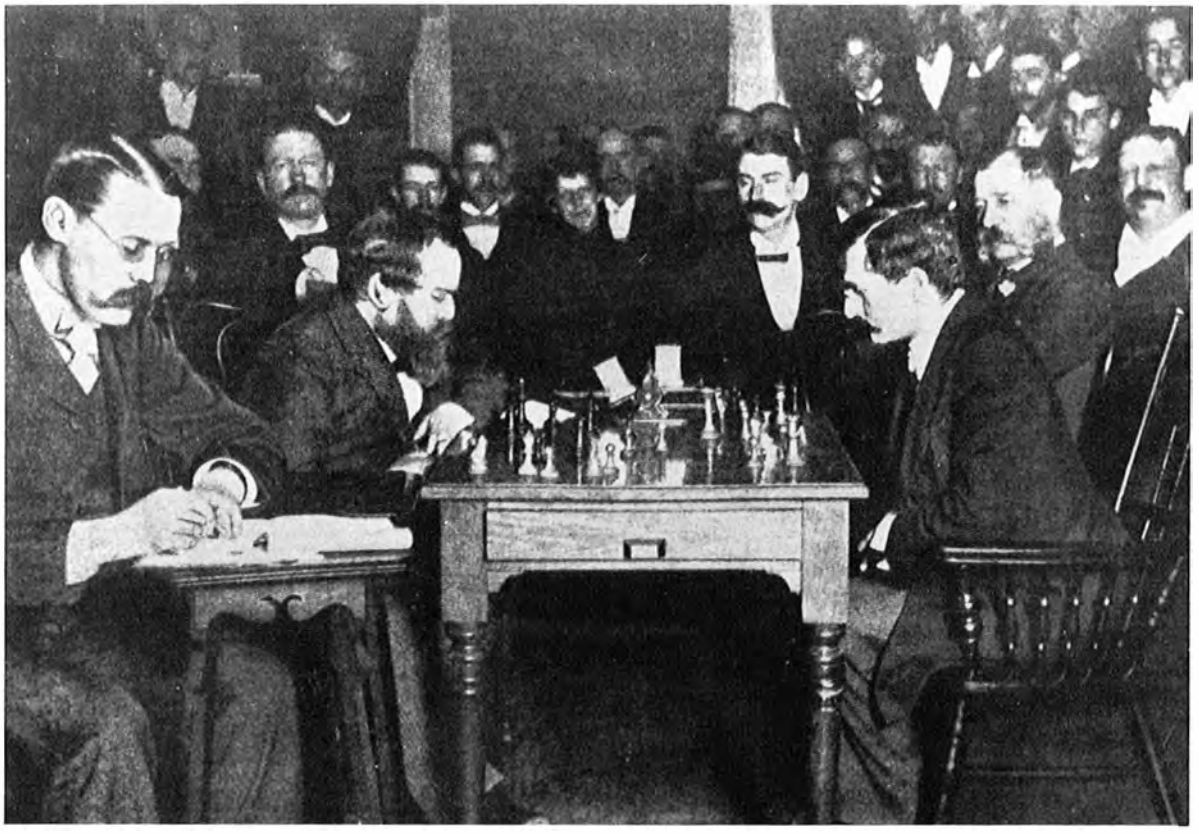
90. Hermann Helms (1870-1963), the "Dean of American Chess," devoted his entire life to encouraging the growth of chess in the United States. He edited and published the *American Chess Bulletin* from 1904 until his death in 1963.

91. Charles Alexander Gilberg (1835-98) was a prominent American chess organizer and author who wrote the entertaining book about The Fifth American Chess Congress, held in New York in 1880.

92. Captain George Henry Mackenzie (1837-91), the strongest player ever born in Scotland, was a professional soldier who served in both India and Ireland before forsaking war for chess in 1861. After emigrating to America in 1863 to fight once again (this time for the North in the Civil War), he quickly established himself as the American champion by winning the Second, Third, and Fifth American Chess Congresses (1871, 1874, 1880)—Mason won the Fourth when Mackenzie did not play. A fearless attacking player, Mackenzie also did well internationally. He scored a great upset by winning the powerful Frankfurt tournament of 1887, ahead of Blackburne, Weiss, Bardeleben and Tarrasch. In 1883 he lost a match to Steinitz 3 to 1, with 2 draws, but Steinitz, being world champion, never bothered to claim the American title. Mackenzie's old war wounds caused a premature deterioration of his health and forced him to withdraw from active play in 1888.



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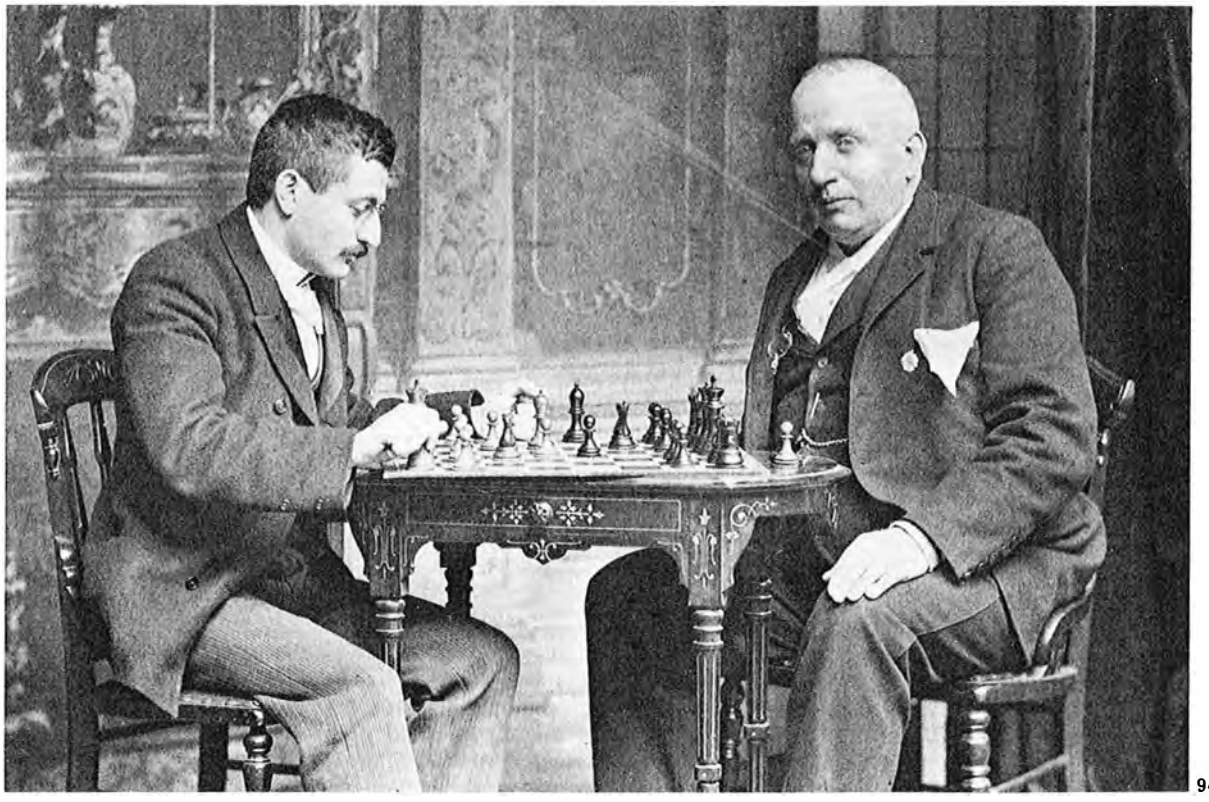

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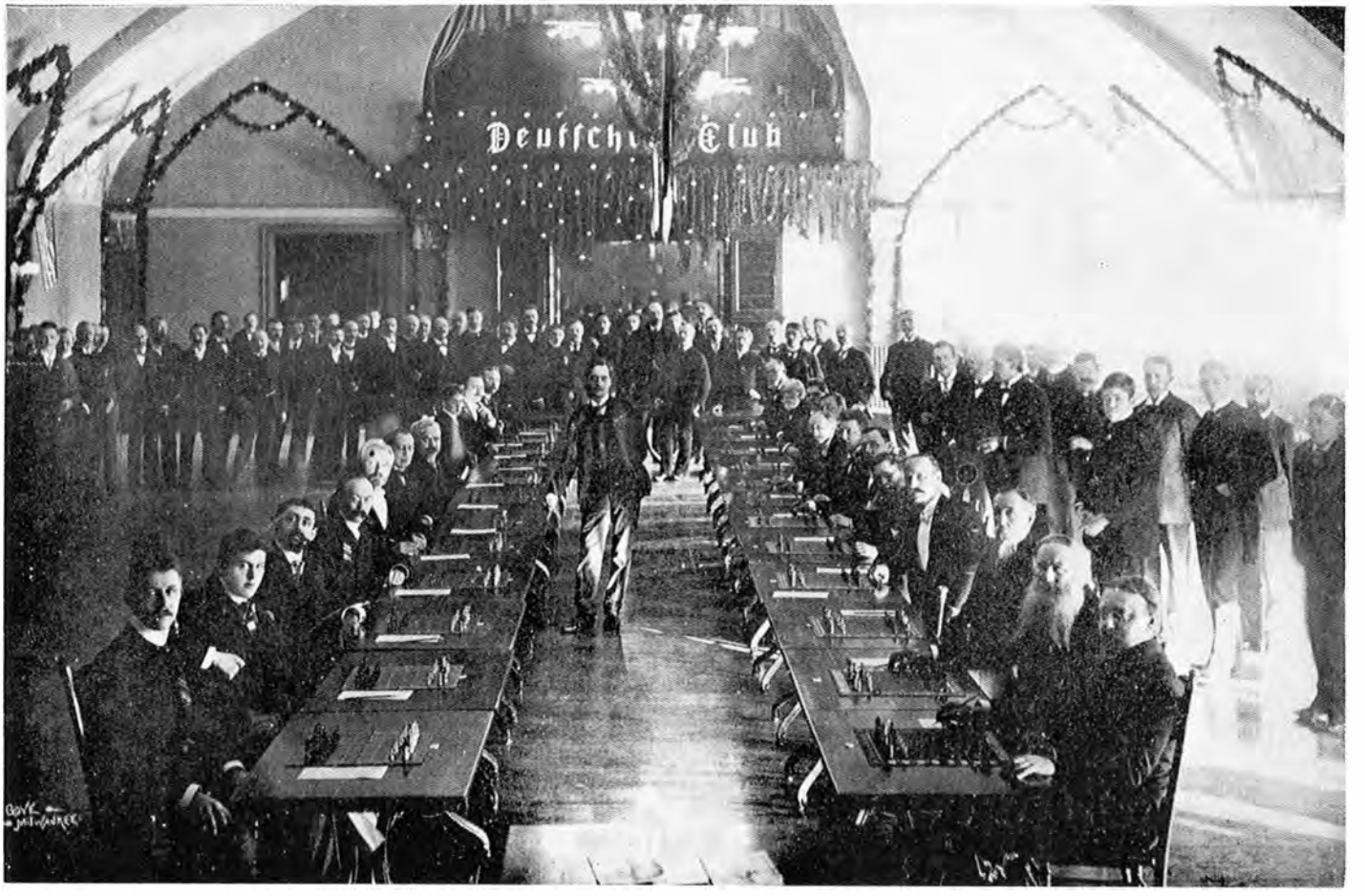
93. Lasker and Steinitz in Montreal during the third and final phase of their 1894 world championship match, which began in New York and Philadelphia. Steinitz entered the third stage trailing 7 to 2, and here fought back manfully but finally succumbed 10 to 5, with only 4 draws. Lasker at 26 was too strong for the 58-year-old Steinitz. An unfortunate rematch was held in Moscow in 1898, which Lasker won overwhelmingly, 10 to 2, with 5 draws. When asked why he did not retire, Steinitz replied, "The glory I can spare, but not the cash!"

94. Emanuel Lasker and Gustavus C. Reichhelm, a wealthy chess patron, playing at the Philadelphia Chess Club in 1892.

95. Pillsbury (left) in a characteristically relaxed pose with an unnamed opponent at the old Manhattan Chess Club in New York City, 1893.

Harry Nelson Pillsbury (1872-1906) burst upon the chess scene by winning the memorable Hastings (England) International Tournament in 1895, ahead of Tchigorin, Lasker, Tarrasch and Steinitz. This brilliant young American captivated the chess world with his dynamically correct style and seemed destined to become the next challenger for Lasker's title. In the St. Petersburg quadrangular tournament of 1896 Pillsbury only finished third—while he beat Lasker in their individual match 3½-2½, he was mesmerized by his old idol Steinitz, to whom he lost 5-1. Afterwards he finished second to Lasker in two very strong tournaments, London 1899 and Paris 1900. He also tied for first with Tarrasch in the gigantic Vienna tournament of 1898 (though he lost the playoff match) and tied for first with Schlechter at Munich 1900. But although Pillsbury's career was rocketing forward, his health was slowly and irreversibly deteriorating—he had contracted syphilis in Russia in 1896. By 1904 he was seriously ill, and could not even make the prize list in the Cambridge Springs tournament that year, although there he beat Lasker for the last time. Pillsbury had the best overall score (7-7) against Emanuel Lasker of any of his contemporaries. Even within his brief career of ten years Pillsbury proved himself to be one of America's greatest players.



96. Pillsbury about to begin a simultaneous exhibition at the Milwaukee Deutscher Club in 1897.

Earning a living as a professional chess master has always been difficult, and it was especially tough in Pillsbury's day when few lucrative tournaments were held. Besides serving as the hidden operator of the chess automaton "Ajeeb," Pillsbury was constantly giving simultaneous displays, which, having virtually total recall, he embellished with various memory and card feats. In 1900–01 he went on a seven-month nation-wide tour in which he gave over 150 exhibitions and traveled over 40,000 miles!

The quality of his blindfold chess against high-caliber opponents has never been equaled. In 1900, at the Franklin Chess Club in Philadelphia, a blindfolded Pillsbury took on the 20 strongest players, including several masters, and won 14, with 5 draws and only 1 loss. At Hannover in 1902, he played all the contestants in the Hauptturnier (candidate masters tourney), winning 3, drawing 11 and losing 7, in a session lasting 9½ hours with only one half-hour rest period. The magnificence of this result against a field of 21 players of near-master strength (including Ossip Bernstein, E. Cohn, H. Farhni, and J. Moller—all of whom could only draw) cannot be exaggerated. It was generally believed at the time that these exertions were the cause of Pillsbury's early death. Even Dr. Emanuel Lasker, who should have known better, attributed Pillsbury's demise to "overexertion of the memory cells."

97

97. The huge double-round Kaiser-Jubilee Tournament held in Vienna in 1898 was an arduous marathon, lasting over six weeks and requiring each contestant to play 36 games. Tarrasch and Pillsbury tied for first with 27½ points each (Tarrasch winning a playoff match, 2½–1½), followed by Janowski with 25½ and Steinitz with 23½ (a miraculous result for a man of 62). Seated, from left to right, are Tarrasch, Blackburne, Pillsbury, Steinitz, Tchigorin, Janowski, Schiffers and Lipke. Standing, from left to right, are Schwartz, Schlechter, Fahndrich, Caro, Maróczy, Showalter, Marco, Alapin, Halprin, Baird and Burn.

98. Wilhelm Steinitz in 1896.

> Elegance of style when opportunity arises is no doubt an attribute of a great master, but the fact should never be lost sight of that the brilliant sacrificing combinations can only occur when either side has committed some grave error of judgment in the disposition of his forces, and therefore, only very rarely in important games between first-class masters. (Steinitz in *The Modern Chess Instructor*, 1889)

Steinitz was ridiculed for such assertions by many of his romantic (and shallow) contemporaries. Inevitably, the validity of his ideas became apparent; after Steinitz most "beauty" or "brilliancy" prizes awarded in European tournaments came to be given for the best *strategically* played game, rather than for flashy attacks occasioned by silly errors.

98

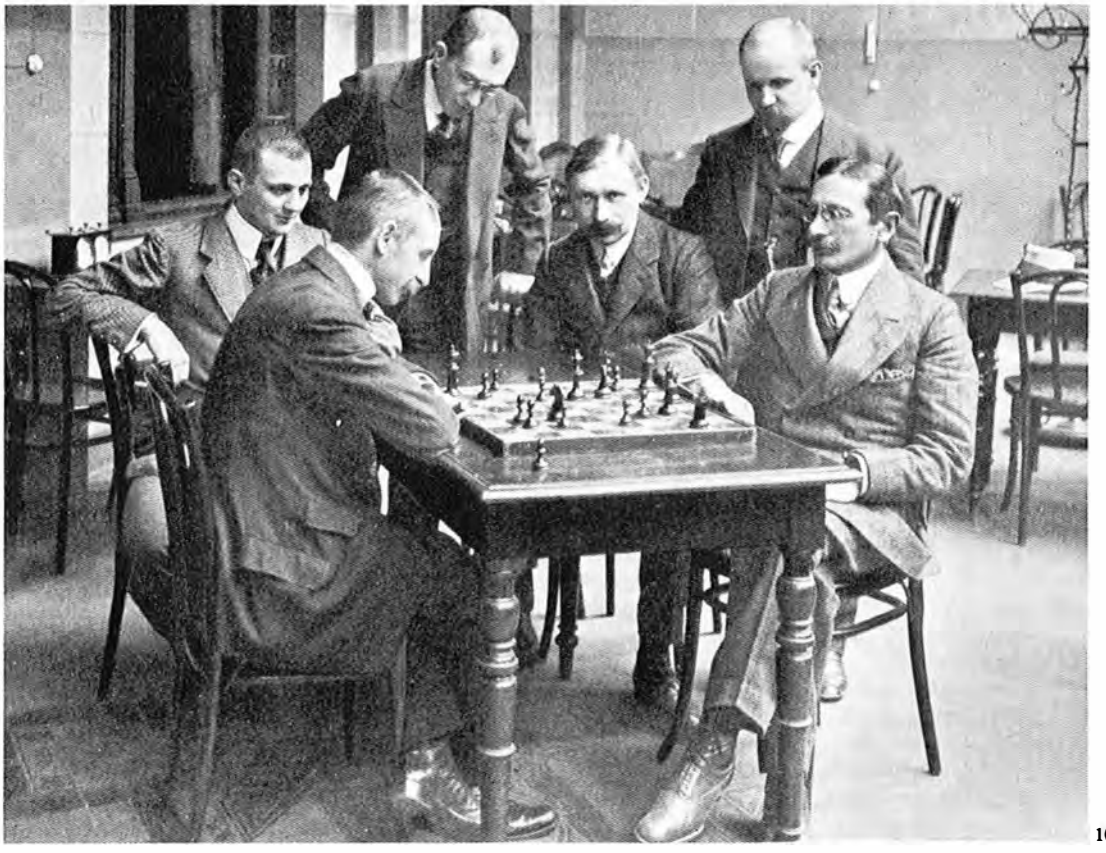
99

99. Tarrasch during the Monte Carlo tournament of 1903.

Dr. Siegbert Tarrasch (1862–1934) was one of the strongest and most consistently successful players of the "classical era" (roughly 1894–1914). Between 1888 and 1907 he won eight of the 13 tournaments he entered (Nuremberg 1888, Breslau 1889, Manchester 1890, Dresden 1892, Leipzig 1894, Vienna 1898, Monte Carlo 1903 and Ostend 1907). In match play he was equally distinguished, crushing Taubenhaus, Walbrodt, Marshall and Mieses overwhelmingly and drawing long matches against Tchigorin (9–9 with 4 draws in 1893) and Schlechter (3–3 with 10 draws in 1911). Only Emanuel Lasker had his number—he dashed Tarrasch's hopes of becoming world champion in a long-delayed match in 1908, and although Tarrasch subsequently tried to prove, in his book on the match, that he had been in a better position than Lasker at some point in almost every game, L. Hoffer's contemporary opinion that "a score of 8–3 cannot be explained away" prevailed. Tarrasch was too dogmatic in his conception of correct opening and middle-game play to defeat such an imaginative genius as Lasker, and Lasker's well-known statement that "Tarrasch lacks the spirit that whips the blood" was probably true.

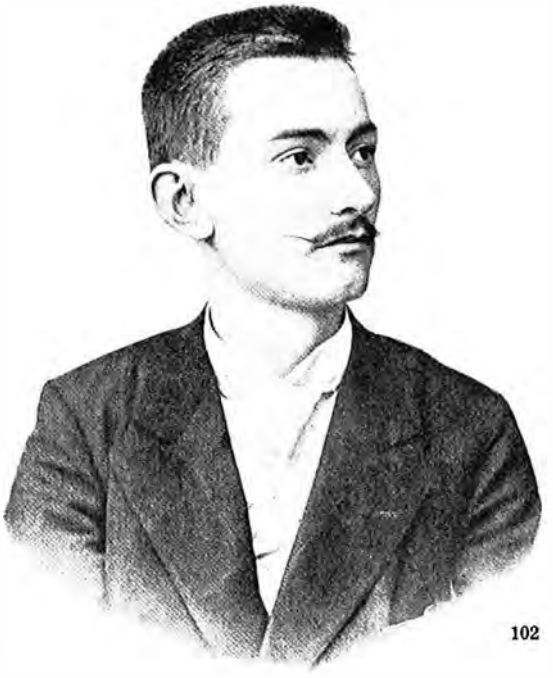
However, if the foundations of modern chess were laid by Steinitz, then Tarrasch was his most important disciple. He refined and expanded his great colleague's ideas on controlling space, correct and logical development, and achieving superiority through the steady accumulation of positional advantages. His most significant books are *The Game of Chess* (1934) and *Dreihundert Schachpartien* (1895), a collection of his own games.

100. Schlechter (left) and Tarrasch analyzing a position from their match in 1911.



100

101. The Dresden tournament of 1892 was one of Tarrasch's early triumphs. The decline of the romantic player was already becoming apparent, and masters like Mason and Blackburne could here only finish tenth and eleventh respectively. Standing, from left to right, are Heyde, Schmid, Blackburne, Noa, von Scheve, Walbrodt and Zwanzig. Seated, from left to right, are Loman, Schottlander, Winawer, Mason, Schallopp, von Bardeleben, Tarrasch, Mieses, Albin and Alapin.



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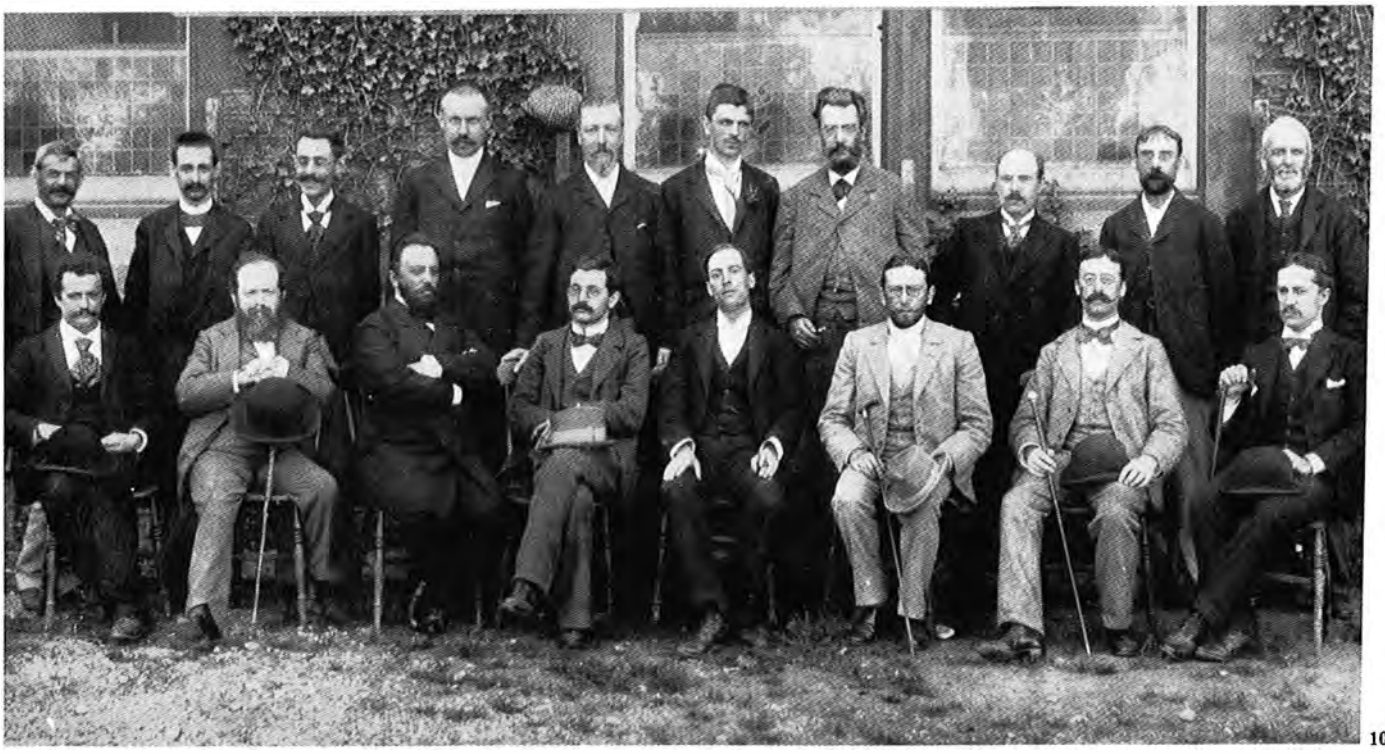
102. Rudolf Charousek (1873–1900) of Hungary delighted and amazed the chess public with his bold, incisive play during a tragically brief career cut short by tuberculosis. In his international debut at Nuremberg 1896, Charousek only finished twelfth but beat Lasker in a sparkling game. Later that year Charousek tied for first with Tchigorin at Budapest, but lost the playoff match 3–1. In 1897 he won the strong Berlin Chess Congress and placed second at Cologne 1898, behind Burn but ahead of Steinitz, Schlechter and Janowski. Charousek's best games are models of *logically* aggressive, straightforward play and "it is not possible for us to judge what greater heights he might have reached in his art, if his life had not closed in its spring" (Sergeant in *Charousek's Games of Chess*, 1919).

103. David Janowski (1868–1927), originally from Poland, settled in Paris and quickly displaced Rosenthal as the local chess hero—he was one of the most brilliant, temperamental, and opinionated grandmasters of the classical period.

Janowski's exceptional attacking ability was especially threatening in tournaments, where his unrelenting ferocity could compensate for occasional losses. He won outstanding victories at Monte Carlo 1901, Hannover 1902, and Barmen 1905, where he tied for first with Maróczy. He had a high opinion of himself and a correspondingly low one of most of his colleagues; when once asked who the best grandmasters were he replied, "There are only three. Capablanca, Lasker, and the third I am too modest to mention." Janowski was addicted to gambling, and at Monte Carlo in 1901 lost his first-prize money in the casino the same evening the tournament ended.

Somehow Janowski convinced the wealthy Dutch artist Leo Nardus he was the greatest player the world had ever seen, and succeeded in having Nardus provide sufficient sums for, not one, but two world championship matches with Lasker. The wily Lasker, knowing a good thing when he saw it, managed to draw a four-game preliminary exhibition match with Janowski, but then proceeded to crush him 7–1 and 8–0 (in 1909 and 1910) when real money was at stake. Janowski's chess deteriorated markedly after World War I and he died alone and impoverished; subscription was raised to prevent his being buried in a pauper's grave.



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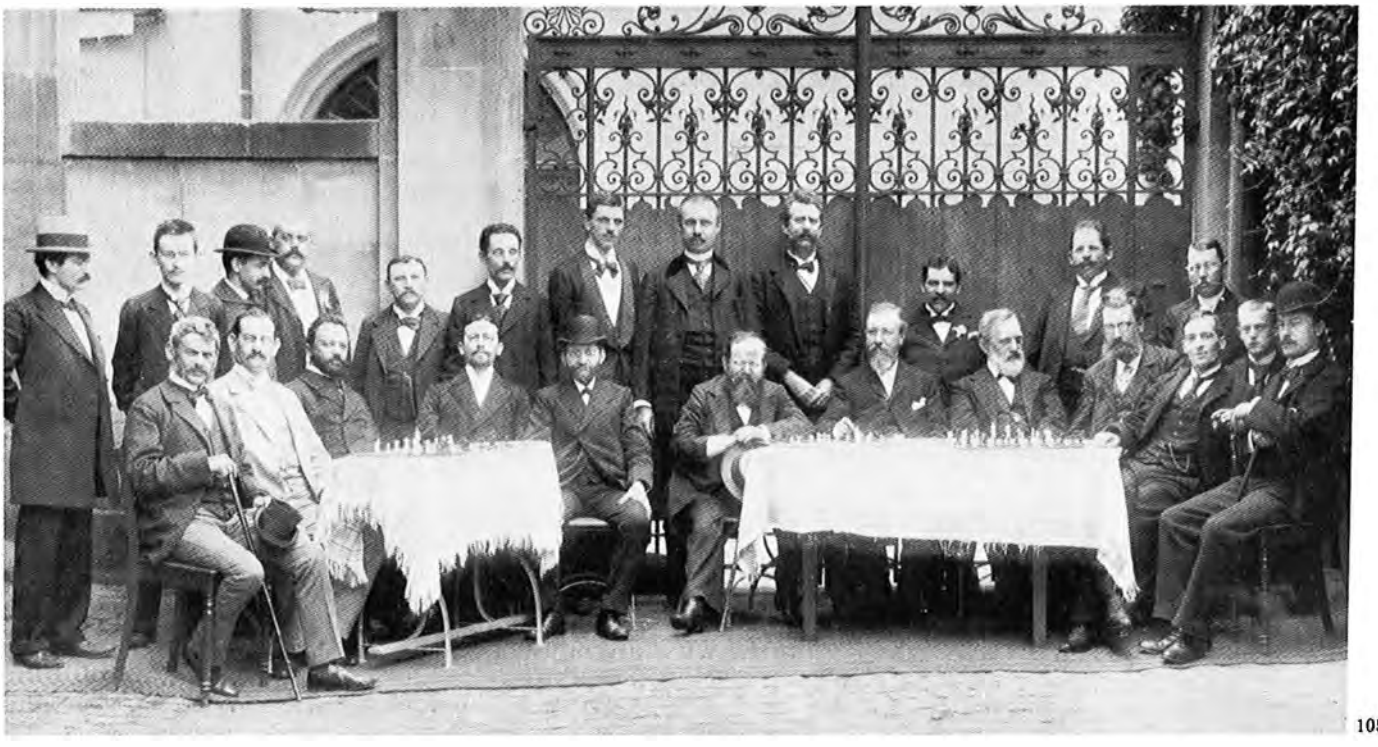

105

The competitors in two of the strongest tournaments held in the 1890s.

104. *Hastings 1895.* It came as a shock when the favorites Lasker and Tarrasch (the world champion and the man who thought he should be) finished third and fourth behind the new young star Pillsbury (first) and the fiery Russian Tchigorin (second). Seated, from left to right: Vergani, Steinitz, Tchigorin, Lasker, Pillsbury, Tarrasch, Mieses and Teichmann. Standing, from left to right: Albin, Schlechter, Janowski, Marco, Blackburne, Maróczy, Schiffers, Gunsberg, Burn and Tinsley.

105. *Nuremberg 1896.* Here Lasker reestablished himself and won comfortably, ahead of Maróczy (second), Pillsbury and Tarrasch (tied for third and fourth). Seated, from left to right: Albin, Porges, Tchigorin, Tarrasch, Winawer, Steinitz, Blackburne, Schallopp. Schiffers, Pillsbury, Walbrodt and Teichmann. Standing, from left to right: Lasker, Charousek, Schlechter, Wertheimer, Schröder, Janowski, Maróczy, Marco, Showalter and three amateurs.

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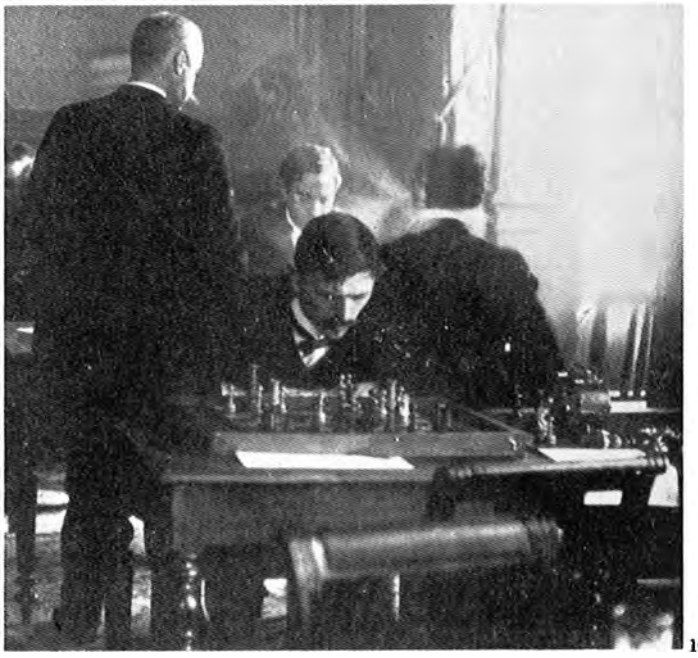
106. Georg Marco (second from left) playing Mieses at Monte Carlo 1903, while Leopold Hoffer, a popular chess author, looks on.

Marco (1863–1923) was one of the most profound chess writers of his time. A strong master who never quite achieved top successes over the board, he is much admired today for his superbly objective and accurate annotations and theoretical articles. As editor of the *Wiener Schachzeitung* from 1898 to 1916, he set a standard for thoroughness and accuracy which has never been surpassed. He authored several magnificent tournament books, among which are *Das Internationale Schachmeisterturnier in Karlsbad 1907* (with Karl Schlechter) and *Das Internationale Gambitturnier Baden bei Wien 1914*, considered by many to be the finest of their kind ever written.

107. Oldrich Duras (1882–1957) of Czechoslovakia is something of a mystery. During the years 1903–14 he was one of the leading European tournament players and tied for first place in three important events (at Vienna 1908 with Maróczy and Schlechter, at Prague 1908 with Schlechter, and at Breslau 1912 with Rubinstein). He also finished second at Nuremberg 1906 and at Hamburg 1910. A natural player, Duras ignored openings theory, preferring to slug it out in the middle game and endgame, often winning from inferior positions. He displayed remarkable tactical resourcefulness, and also great stubborness (he was involved in the longest tournament win ever played, 168 moves against Wolf, from which he refused to resign although two queens down). Strangely, he quit the chess arena in 1914 while still in his prime and never played seriously again.



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109

108. Maróczy, deep in thought, at Monte Carlo 1903.

The Hungarian Geza Maróczy (1870–1951) was one of the most solid and strategically gifted masters of the "Tarrasch school." During the period 1900–10 he won some very fine victories, including firsts at Munich 1900, Monte Carlo 1902 and 1904, Ostend 1905 (another enormous double-round affair which he won ahead of Tarrasch and Janowski), Barmen 1905 and Vienna 1908. At this time he was, along with Lasker, Schlechter and Rubinstein, one of the four strongest players in the world, and he was considered a logical challenger for Lasker's title. He was unable to raise sufficient financial backing, however, and a proposed match in 1909 was cancelled. He continued to compete intermittently throughout the 1920s and 1930s, and achieved a tie for first at the great Karlsbad tournament in 1923 with Alekhine and Bogoljubow, and a clear first at Hastings in 1925. Maróczy devoted much of his time in later years to teaching, his most famous pupils being Vera Menchik and Laszlo Szabo. Maróczy was a strong defensive player, especially remembered for his skill in handling queen and pawn endings and those involving the minor pieces.

109. Karl Schlechter (1874–1918) grew up in the pleasant, chess-loving city of Vienna, where in the *fin de siècle* period young chess talent thrived in a marvelous atmosphere of encouragement and respect. A kind, gentle soul, Schlechter became the leading exponent of the quiet and technically near-perfect Viennese style of play. He had an incredible gift for chess, his finest games being beautifully clear strategic masterpieces. He played in almost every important tournament between 1900 and 1918, winning or tying for first in 13 of them. But Schlechter lacked the necessary ambition and toughness needed to reach the very top; he was known as "the drawing master" who frequently was content merely to maintain equality with his peers. He allowed Lasker, for instance, to impose impossible conditions for their brief ten-game world championship match (Schlechter had to win by two points to take the title) but then, uncharacteristically, fought like a lion and gave Lasker the scare of his life. Only in the last game did Lasker save his title (or at least his reputation) when, after Schlechter had missed a win due to time pressure, he won a grim struggle which involved two adjournments and lasted three days. The score ended in a tie, which was a victory for Lasker, and there never was a rematch.

Schlechter was the most notable chess player to be a victim of World War I. Unbeknownst to his friends, he became ill from malnutrition during the winter famine of 1918 and died, literally from starvation.

110. The masters at the great Karlsbad tournament of 1907. Seated, from left to right: Rubinstein, Marco, Fahndrich, Tchigorin, Schlechter, Hoffer, Tietz (the patron who footed the bill), Maróczy, Janowski, Neustadtl, Drobny and Marshall. Standing, from left to right in the first row: Nimzovich, Wolf, Mieses, E. Cohn, P. Johner, Leonhardt, Salwe, Vidmar, Berger, Spielmann, Dus-Chotimirski, Tartakower and Olland. This was one of the hardest-fought tournaments ever held, and it produced a wealth of exciting games. Rubinstein emerged here as a force to be reckoned with by winning, one-half point ahead of the veteran Maróczy.

Rubinstein was already evincing signs of his eccentric behavior; in the last round, needing only a draw to clinch first place, he turned down an early draw offer from Wolf in an even position. They continued, and Rubinstein outplayed Wolf and reached a position with a forced mating combination. Then, to the astonishment of all, Rubinstein traded off all the pieces, leaving a barren position. He then offered a draw, which was, of course, accepted. When asked why he didn't take Wolf's first draw offer and then why he didn't mate Wolf, Rubinstein answered, "With Wolf, I make a draw when *I* want to, not when *he* wants to!"

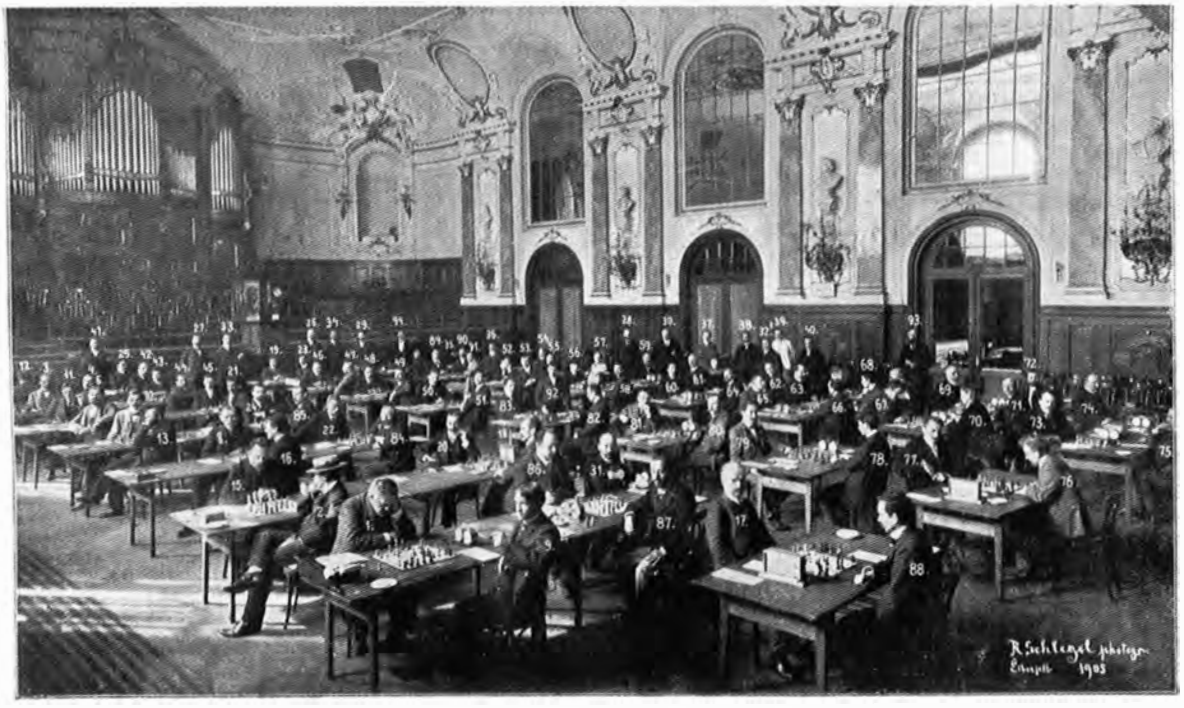
111. Mikhail Ivanovich Tchigorin (1850–1908) was a fearless attacking player who is now idolized in the Soviet Union as the founder of the Russian school of chess. After learning the game rather late (in his early twenties), he soon became the best player in Russia, and fanatically devoted the rest of his life to teaching and popularizing chess in his native land. He founded the first Russian chess magazine, *Shakhmatnyi listok*, in 1876, and he organized the first chess club in the capital of St. Petersburg in 1880. His uncompromising style led to uneven results, although he scored some outstanding victories: he tied for first with Max Weiss at the giant New York tournament of 1889, and was a clear first at the Vienna Gambit Tournament of 1903. He won the first three Russian national championships, the last one, at Kiev in 1903, ahead of Bernstein and Rubinstein.

Tchigorin and Steinitz were great rivals, both over the board and in their philosophies of chess. Tchigorin felt that "theoretical is a synonym for unoriginal"; he believed that the decline in gambit play produced dull chess, and had a very odd but serious preference for knights over bishops. He lost two world championship matches to Steinitz, in 1889 and 1892. The latter match was hotly contested, and the Soviets have since implied that only a single blunder at the end of the match prevented Tchigorin from proving himself to be Steinitz's equal.

Ironically, Tchigorin is most appreciated today for his contributions to theory. He evolved what is now the basic defense to the Ruy Lopez, and Tchigorin's Defense to queen pawn openings (1. P-Q4, P-Q4; 2. P-QB4, N-QB3! ?) has never been refuted.

112. The giant Barmen Chess Congress of 1905 was arranged in several sections. Janowski and Maróczy tied for first ahead of Marshall, Bernstein and Schlechter in the master tourney.

111



112

Internationaler Schach-Kongress zu Barmen 1905.

1. Alapin. 2. von Bardeleben. 3. Berger 4. Bernstein. 5. Burn. 6. Dr. von Gottschall. 7 Janowski. 8. John. 9. Leonhardt. 10. Maroczy. 11. Marshall. 12. Mieses. 13. Schlechter. 14. Süchting. 15. Tschigorin. 16. Wolf. 17. Baird. 18. Caro. 19. W. Cohn. 20. Fahrni. 21. Fleischmann. 23. Lee 23. Neumann. 24. Przepiorka. 25. Swiderski. 26. Marco. 27. Malthan. 28. Brüger. 29. Giessler. 30. Kister. 31. Dr. Lewitt. 32. Höing. 33. Kurt Moll. 34. Saatweber. 35. Masius. 36. Krusius. 37. W. Weyding. 38. K. Schmidt. 39. Dr. Ullrich. 40. Schewe. 41. Flad. 42. Leussen. 43. Niemzowitsch. 44. Dr. Perlis. 45. Spielmann. 46. Petzold. 47. Loewy. 48. Bleykmans. 49. Benima. 50. Duras. 51. Rubinstein. 52. Eppelsheim. 53. Haertel. 54. Shories. 55. Kümmel. 56. Tartacower. 57. Schaefer. 58. Schenkein. 59. Steen. 60. Gregory. 61. F. Moll. 61a. Frau Dr. Kriebel. 62. Malthan jun. 63. Biedendorf. 64. Gutmayer. 65. Creyghton. 66. Jankowitsch. 67. Appunn. 68. Valentiner. 69. Prof. v. Schütz. 70. Ad. Keller. 71. Eisinger. 72. Schillings. 73. Dyckhoff. 74. May. 75. Dr. Goering. 76. Vidmar 77. Kieseritzky. 78. E. Cohn. 79. Sartori. 80. Englund. 81. Moewig. 82. Heilmann 83. Galdos 84. Kopa. 85. Petterson. 86. Schwan. 87. Reggio. 88. Post. 89. Kerwel. 90. Schapiro. 91. Müller-Nandór. 92. Szekely. 93. Bureaudiener. 94. Oberkellner.

113

114

113. Richard Teichmann (1868–1925) was nicknamed "Richard the Fifth" for achieving clear or tied fifth place in many imporant tournaments. In the words of one contemporary "he had as much chess in him as any man living," but eye trouble, financial insecurity, and notorious laziness usually prevented Teichmann from winning the highest honors. One exception came when he won the tremendously strong Karlsbad tournament of 1911, demolishing his primary opponents (Rubinstein, Schlechter and Rotlevi) in three especially beautiful games.

Teichmann was a severely classical player who regarded with horror any deviations from the openings theory of the "Tarrasch school." He lived to see the "hypermodernists" popularize their fianchetto-based openings, and plaintively poked fun at their "double-hole" variations. Teichmann usually gave his utmost against the top players, and even drew a short match with Alekhine in 1921 (3–3), when the future world champion was near the height of his powers.

114. Emmanuel Schiffers (1850–1904) was the second-strongest native Russian chess master during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Because of his successful promotional and didactic chess efforts the Soviets now call him "Russia's Chess Teacher." As a player Schiffers basically served as Tchigorin's "sparring partner": between 1878 and 1901 he lost five matches and twice finished second in all-Russian championships to his mighty adversary. Schiffers's international results were generally poor; his best effort came at Hastings 1895 when he finished sixth.

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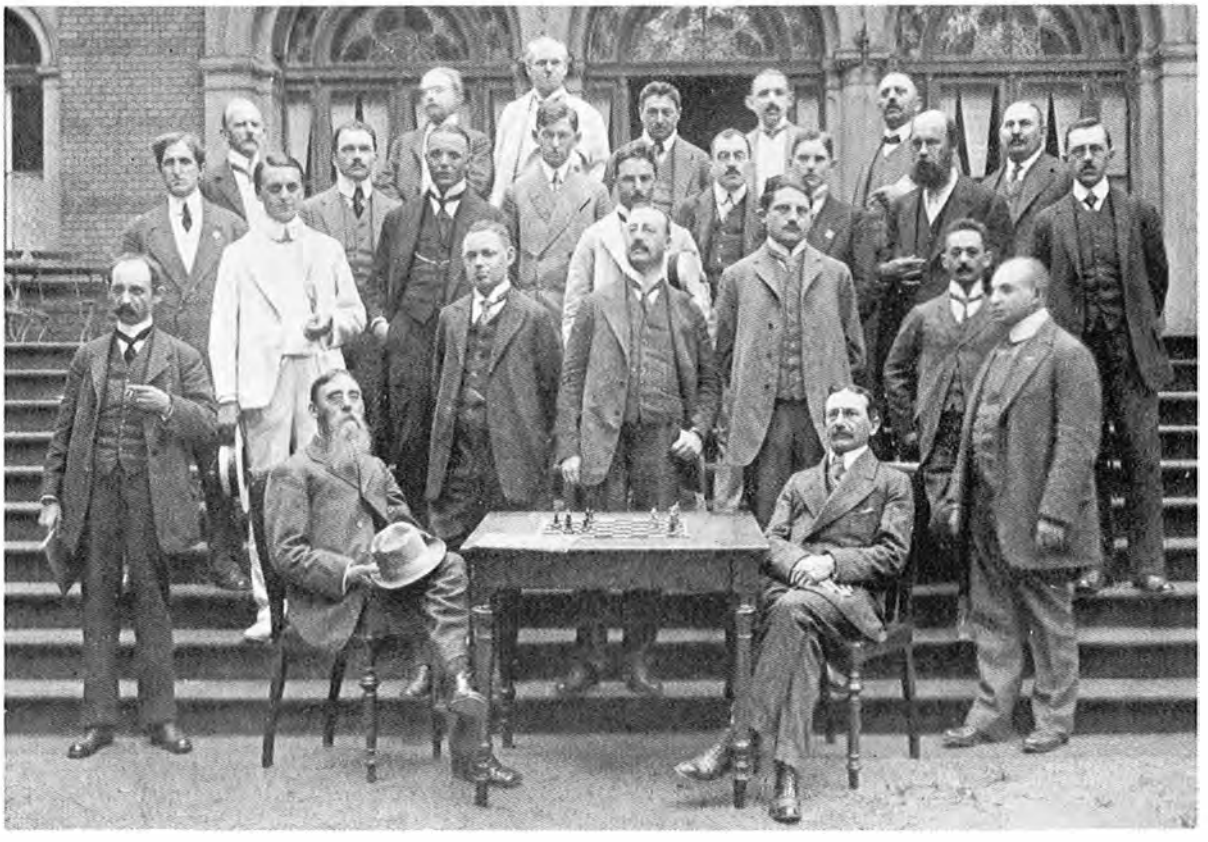

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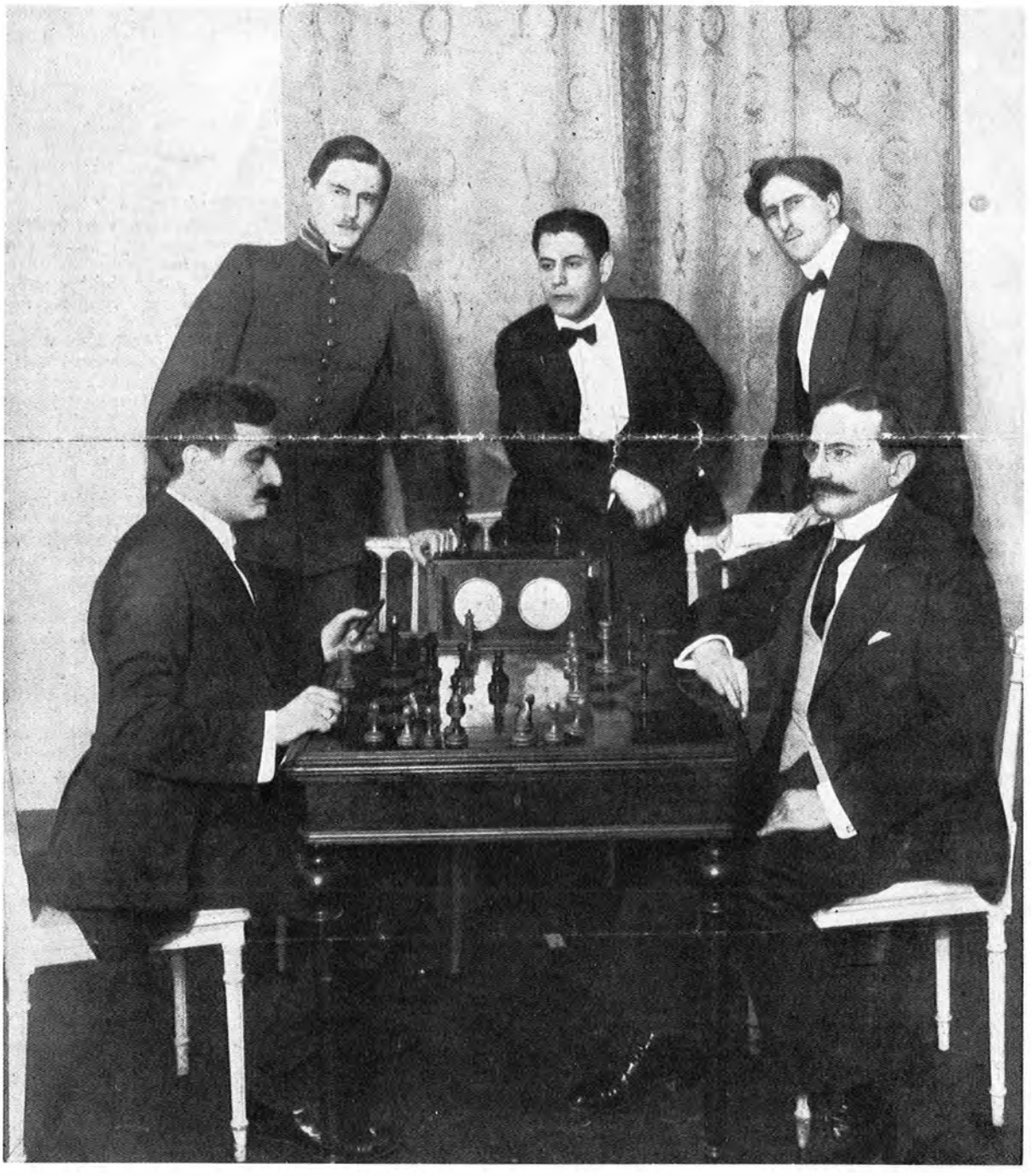
115. Victory in the San Sebastian Tournament of 1912 was decided in a tense, error-filled last-round game between Rubinstein and Nimzovich, won by Rubinstein after both players had overlooked a mate in two moves.

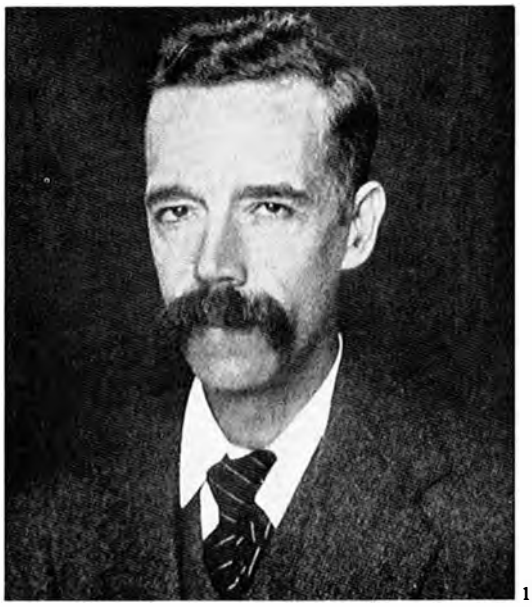
Seated, from left to right: Nimzovich, Hallgarten, Hoffer, Spielmann, Tarrasch, Leonhardt and Marshall. Standing, from left to right: Mieses, Duras, Perlis, Schlechter, Rubinstein and Forgacs.

116. The Breslau tournament of 1912 ended in a tie for first between Rubinstein and Duras. In 1912 Rubinstein won four consecutive strong tournaments (Vilna, San Sebastian, Breslau, and Pistyan), a record for a single year which has never been surpassed.



117. The finalists at the great St. Petersburg tournament of 1914: from left to right, Lasker, Alekhine, Capablanca, Marshall and Tarrasch. Here the term "grandmaster" first came into general use when these finalists were so named by Tsar Nicholas II.

Lasker's amazing come-from-behind victory in this tournament (he scored an incredible 7 out of 8 possible points in the final round) was certainly his most dramatic and memorable achievement. Capablanca could have tied for first had he not blundered away an even game against Tarrasch in the penultimate round—perhaps he was still shaken by the devastating thrashing Lasker had given him the previous day.



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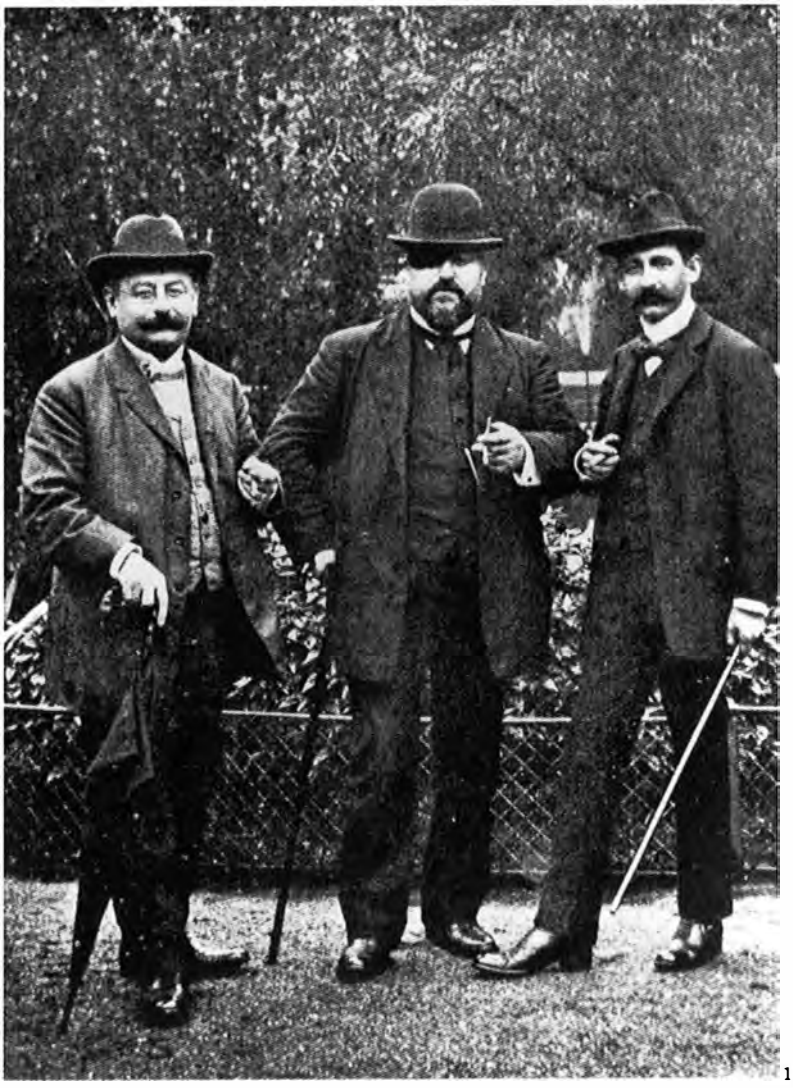

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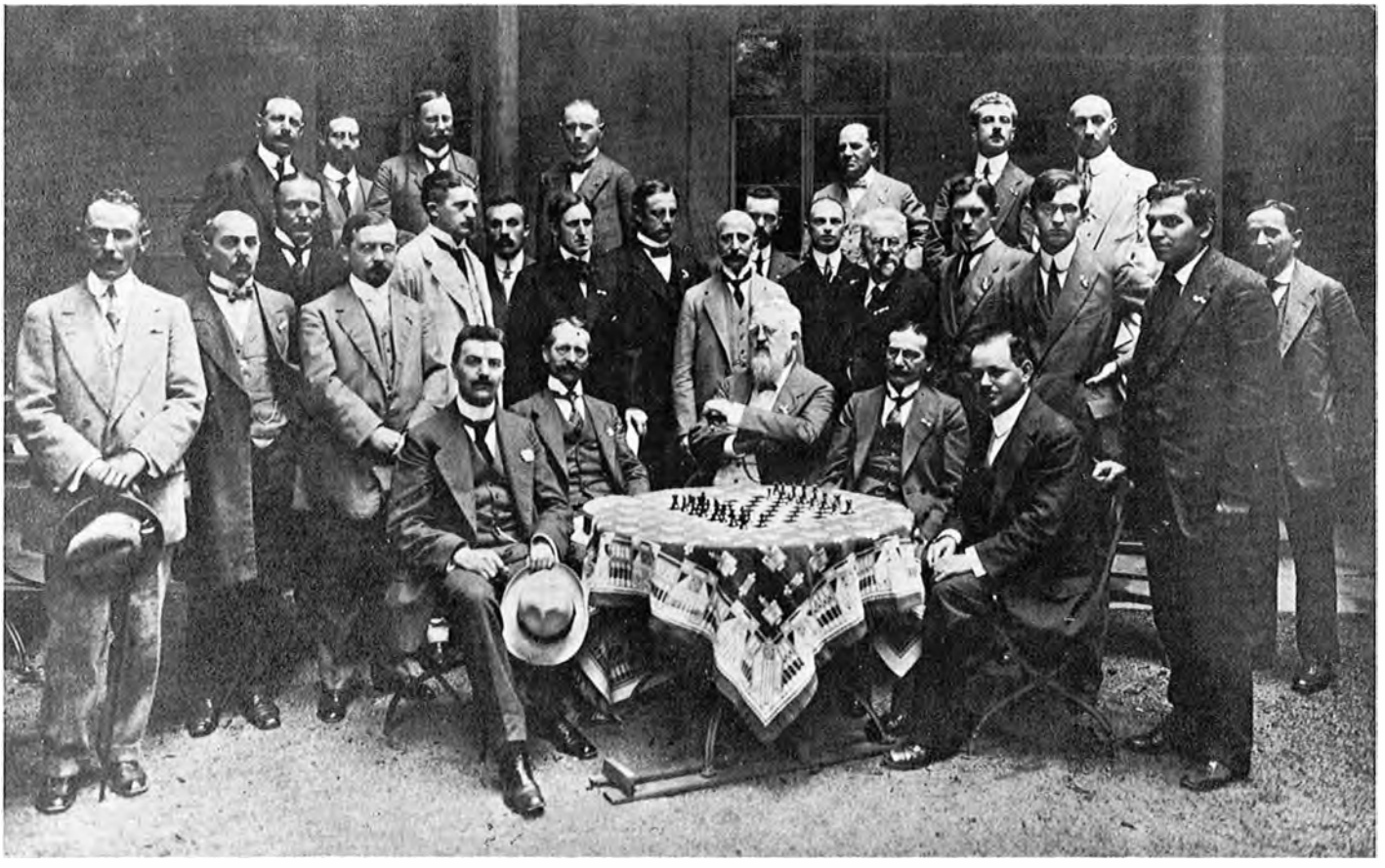
118. Henry Ernest Atkins (1872-1955) was the leading English player during the years 1900-25. He won the British championship a remarkable nine times (a record only recently broken by Jonathan Penrose). Atkins had great talent and determination but, as Penrose was also to do, decided to devote himself to an academic career. During his prime, he played in only one international tournament, Hannover 1902. He placed third behind Janowski and Pillsbury, ahead of Mieses, Napier, Tchigorin and Marshall.

119. Viktor Tietz (the patron who sponsored the tournament), Richard Teichmann and Karl Schlechter at Karlsbad 1911.

It is said that the reason Teichmann was finally able to play up to his potential in this great tournament was that his mother had recently died, leaving him a small annuity, and that therefore he could enter this event with his mind for once free of financial worries.



120. Group portrait of the players at Mannheim 1914. Alekhine was leading with the impressive score of 9½ out of 11 when the outbreak of World War I interrupted the tournament. He, Bogoljubow and several other Russians were interned by the Germans at Triberg, but his family arranged his release through the Red Cross and he returned to Russia to fight. Bogoljubow, on the other hand, remained at Triberg for four years, playing chess with his fellow prisoners; at the end of the war he suddenly emerged as one of the strongest players in the world.

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121. Lasker (left) and Steinitz during their world championship match in 1894.

> That Steinitz at the age of fifty-nine years was defeated by me and later also by others is due to no defect in his theory. His theory is and forever remains the classical expression of the idea of Chess. When Chess-masters arose who were trained for systematic thinking, who therefore understood at least the abstract portions of Steinitz's theory and who besides had natural talent for over-the-board play, Steinitz was confronted with a task that in his old age he could not perform. Had Steinitz lived in our period of improved Chess technique he would have played better Chess than he did and fought also to-day with honour. For he had all the qualities of a great fighter: force, discernment, conscientiousness, undaunted courage. But his claim on posterity is that he was a great discoverer. (Lasker in *Lasker's Manual of Chess*, 1932)

122. Dr. Emanuel Lasker and his wife Martha in Moscow in 1935. At the great tournament held here Lasker achieved his final outstanding result. Although 67 years old, he came in third, only one-half point behind the co-winners Botvinnik and Flohr, and went undefeated throughout. He beautifully outplayed Capablanca in their individual game, and even had the mighty Botvinnik on the ropes, missing a win just before the adjournment. No chess master ever produced a comparable achievement at such an advanced age.

123. Emanuel Lasker (left) playing J. S. Ryan (an amateur) at the Manhattan Chess Club in 1893. After being rebuffed by Tarrasch, who declined to play a match with Lasker on the grounds that the young master had not yet established a sufficient reputation, Lasker left Europe to seek his chess fortune in the United States. Tarrasch was to regret his haughty attitude towards Lasker for many years.

Emanuel Lasker was born on December 24, 1868, in Berlinchen, a suburb of Berlin. A precocious child, he showed a special gift for mathematics and while only 11 years old was sent by his parents to study in Berlin. Here he stayed with his brother, Dr. Berthold Lasker, who upon his arrival began to teach him chess. Emanuel developed into a strong, mature player very quickly, and during his student years he supported himself with the small sums he earned playing chess in the local cafés. By the age of 20 he had won the title of German Master at the Breslau Hauptturnier and decided to make chess his career. First he moved to England, where in 1892 he won the British Chess Association tournament ahead of all the leading British players; he subsequently trounced Blackburne and Bird in matches that same year. Then he traveled to America where within a year he secured financial backing for a match with Steinitz and won the world championship in 1894. However, the European chess community was still cool to the idea of Lasker being the world's best player, and his third place at Hastings 1895 did nothing to silence his critics. In 1896 he convincingly won the St. Petersburg quadrangular tournament, and followed this with victories at Nuremberg 1896, London 1899 and Paris 1900, solidifying his position as the strongest player in the world.

The World's Chess Champion

DR. EMANUEL LASKER

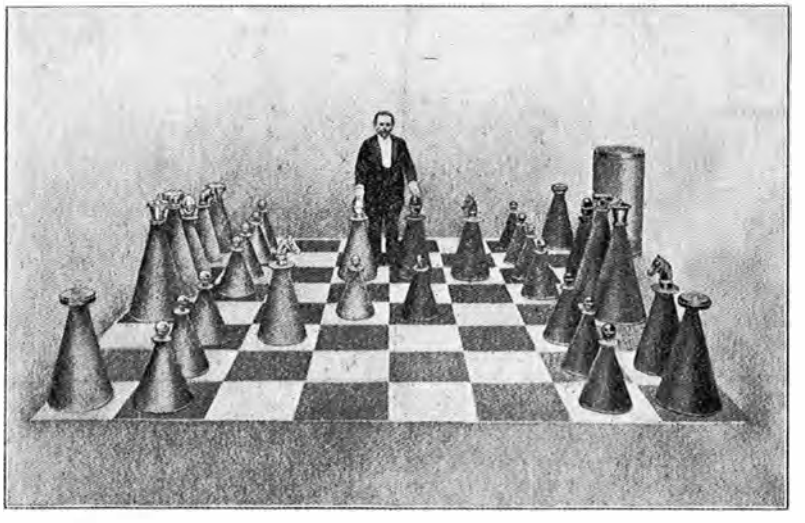
Will lecture on the subject

"Chess, and How to Learn It"

In the Auditorium of Hotel Rider

Saturday Evening, April 30th,

At Eight O'Clock.



Dr. Lasker will illustrate his lecture by means of Mr. Peter Toepfer's patented "Exhibition Chessmen."

The giant Chessmen are made of Aluminum and are so light that they can be readily moved when set up on the stage for games, problems, etc. After the performance they are packed within the compass of a trunk, two by four feet in size, for transportation. The board measures twenty feet square and is made of cloth, with black and white squares, each 30 by 30 inches. As he makes the necessary explanations, the lecturer walks out upon the board and moves the pieces as required. The Kings and Queens are all three feet six inches high.

124. Lasker never missed an opportunity to make money at chess. He gave frequent lectures and exhibitions, and also published and edited the excellent *Lasker's Chess Magazine* (November 1904 to January 1909). He always drove an extremely hard bargain when negotiating match conditions with potential challengers, and he was frequently criticized for the financial guarantees he demanded. But it should be remembered that the specter of Steinitz's demise was firmly entrenched in his memory, and he was determined that such would not happen to him. He was a supreme fighter, both in life and over the chessboard—he wrote several books on philosophy which emphasized the struggles of life, and he courageously lived by his beliefs. Had he not been so pragmatic he certainly never could have survived the Nazi occupation of his home at the age of 65.

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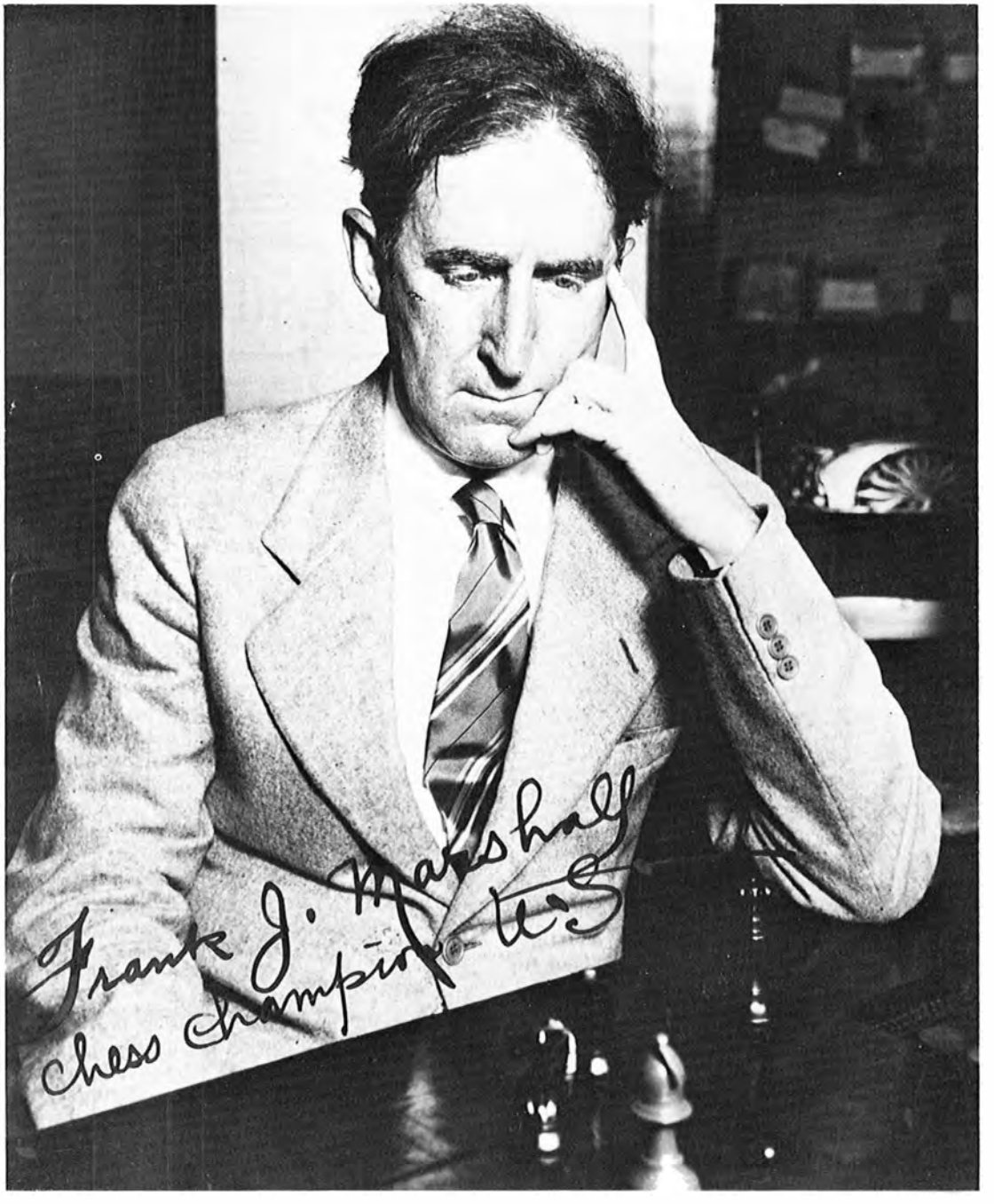
125. Emanuel Lasker and his brother Berthold, a doctor by profession and a strong amateur chess player.

126. After his four consecutive tournament triumphs between 1896 and 1900, Lasker returned to school and received his doctorate in mathematics from the Erlangen university in 1902. He played in only three more tournaments as world champion, finishing equal second with Janowski at Cambridge Springs 1904, equal first with Rubinstein at St. Petersburg 1909 and clear first at St. Petersburg 1914. He demolished Marshall, Tarrasch and Janowski (twice) in matches during these years and dramatically saved his title by winning a lost position from Schlechter in the last game of their 1910 match. After World War I Lasker tried to concede his title to Capablanca, but the chess world would not accept this and he finally agreed to play a match with the Cuban at Havana in 1921. Lasker could no longer outplay or psychologically outmaneuver Capablanca and resigned the match with the score 4–0 (with 10 draws) against him. He hoped to retire at this time, but financial difficulties forced him to remain in the chess arena. In 1924 came his most astounding victory, winning at New York ahead of Capablanca and Alekhine by a margin of 1½ points. After a magnificent second place at Moscow 1925, behind Bogoljubow but again ahead of Capablanca, Lasker retired from active play to devote most of his time to writing, but, forced to flee Germany in 1933, he had to return again to serious chess. Although absent from tournament play for nine years he did well, finishing fifth at Zurich 1934, third at Moscow 1935, sixth at Moscow 1936, and tied for seventh at Nottingham 1936. The Soviets offered Lasker a teaching position in Russia, but instead he emigrated to America in 1937. Here he eked out a poor living writing and giving occasional exhibitions; he died in New York on January 11, 1941. He was certainly the toughest, and very probably the greatest player who ever lived.

Much has been written about Lasker's style, including the claims that he seemed to prefer defensive play and apparently founded no school. These statements are only partially true. Lasker's genius was so great, and his will to win so intense, that he frequently accepted a slightly inferior position, especially with Black, if he knew it would lead to immense complications, rather than defend correctly and end up with a hopeless draw. Lasker seldom tried to achieve much in the opening, probably because, like most great players, he believed that in the middle game and in the endgame he had no peer. In a sense he did found a new school of chess thought—the psychological school. He was the first great player to consciously aim for those types of positions his opponents disliked. Lasker himself had no preferences and could play superbly in any kind of position. He believed only in winning and his overall tournament record has been unequaled to this day.

Lasker (left) playing Tarrasch during their world championship match in 1908.



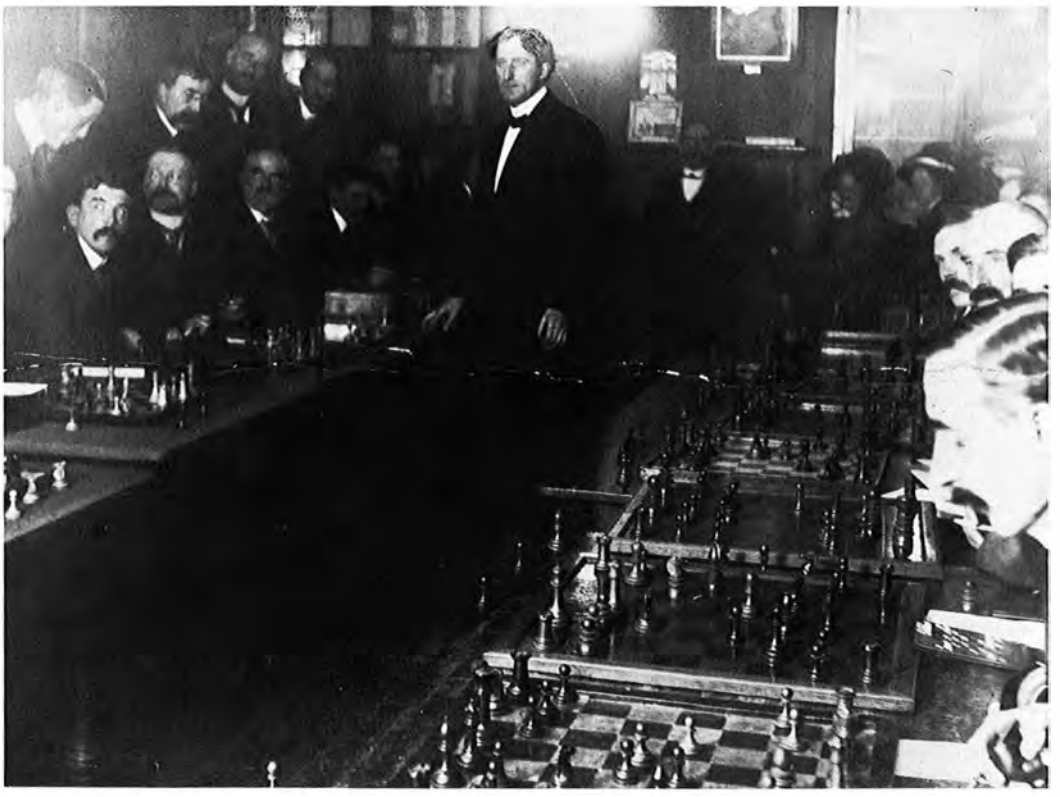
127. Frank James Marshall (1877–1944) devoted his entire adult life to one ideal: "to play the most interesting and beautiful chess of which I was capable." A brilliant tactician who reveled in speculative attacking games, he consistently thrilled the chess world with his many sparkling brilliancies and his equally famous "swindles." Marshall was United States champion from 1909, when he beat Showalter in a title match (7–2, with 3 draws), to 1936, when he voluntarily relinquished his throne. During the years 1900–14 he was one of the most successful tournament players—his greatest victories coming at Cambridge Springs 1904 (ahead of Lasker and Janowski), Nuremberg 1906, Dusseldorf 1908, and Havana 1913 (there he defeated Capablanca in their individual game; the hitherto invincible Cuban was so upset that he ordered the organizers to clear the hall of spectators before he would resign). In matches Marshall was less successful; his volatile temperament could not withstand the grind of this type of psychological warfare and he suffered severe defeats at the hands of Tarrasch, Lasker and Capablanca. But Marshall always rebounded from setbacks. Even during the 1920s, though older and prone to time pressure, he still won brilliancy prizes, and he expertly captained and played for the tremendous American teams that won four consecutive chess Olympiads in the 1930s. Throughout his long career he gave hundreds of exhibitions and was one of the prime forces behind the great development of American chess during the first half of this century. He also contributed many dynamic lines to opening theory; some Marshall gambit or counter-attack is constantly being rediscovered and reevaluated.

128

128. Georg Marco was one of the most profound chess authors of all time, and yet frequently suffered mediocre results over the board. In the quiet of his study he could produce amazingly creative annotations, sometimes taking several days over a single game, but apparently his creative processes could not function as well under the tension and time limits of tournament play. Theoreticians like Marco, and later Ernst Grunfeld and Ludek Pachman, have shown that in chess too, genius can be "an infinite capacity for taking pains."

129. J. H. Blackburne played strong chess far into his later years in spite of his well-known fondness for liquor. Once, during a simultaneous exhibition, he purloined an opponent's drink so quickly as he passed by that the man had no idea who drained his glass. Blackburne speedily won this game and afterwards remarked: "My opponent left a glass of whiskey *en prise* and I took it *en passant*. That little mistake wrecked his game."

129



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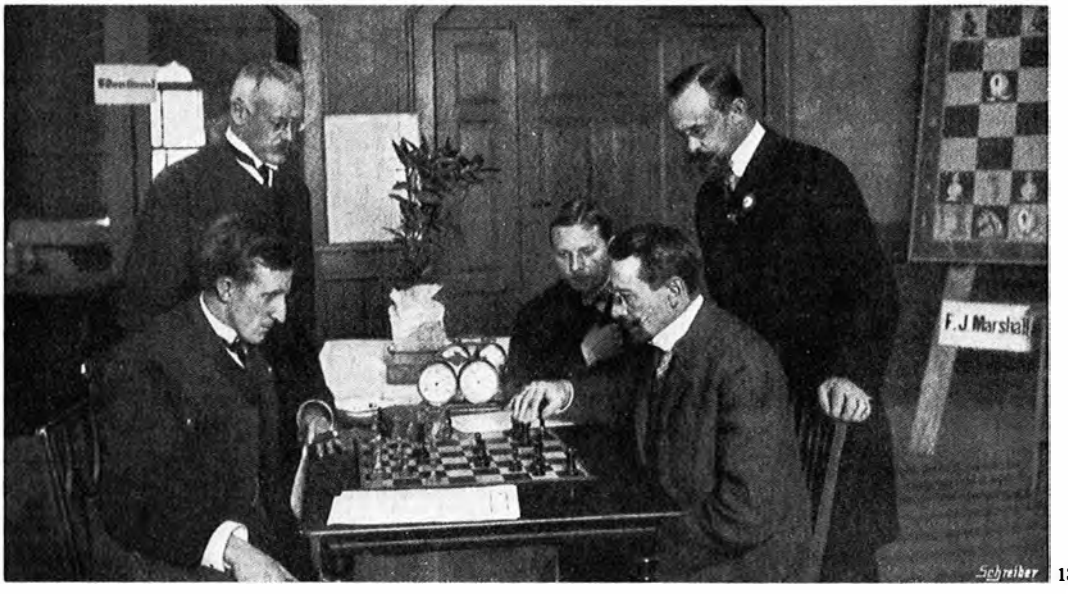
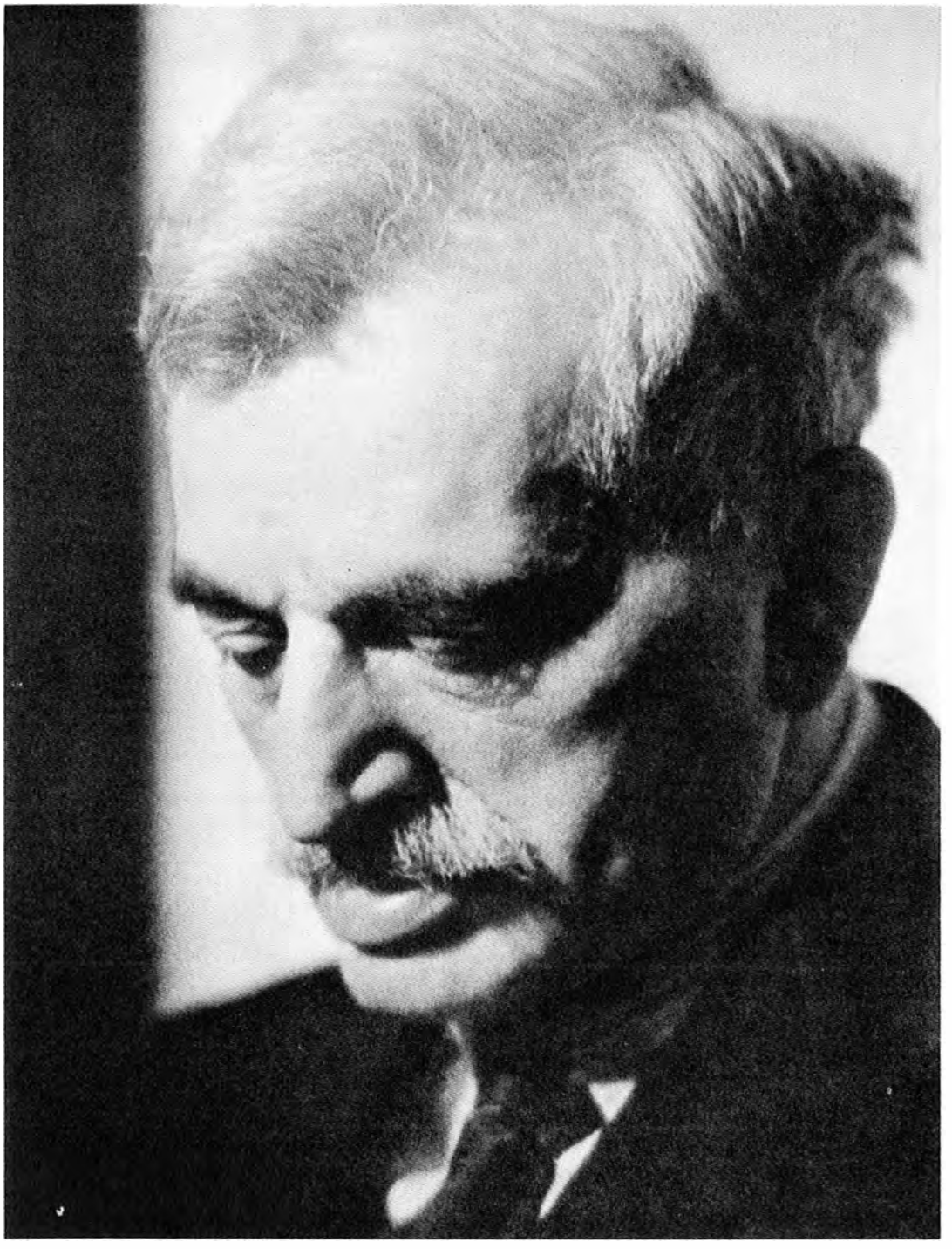


131

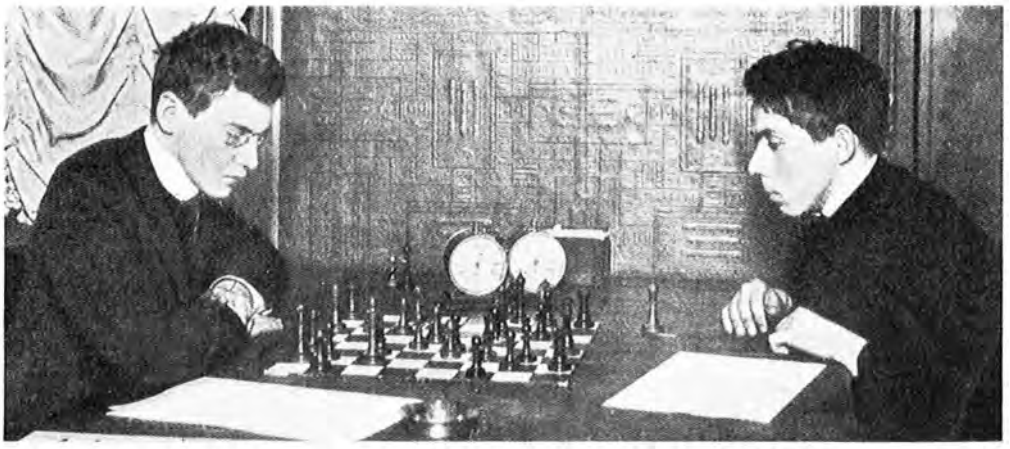
130. Marshall giving a simultaneous exhibition in New York around 1904. He gave many impressive public displays during his long career, but certainly the most incredible was in Montreal in 1922, where he played 155 games—he won 126, drew 21 and lost 8 in only seven hours and 15 minutes. Even more remarkable was the fact that soon afterwards he successfully recalled all the moves of 153 of these games.

131. Marshall playing Tarrasch at the Nuremberg tournament of 1906. When Marshall was "hot" during a tournament there was no stopping him. Here he won first prize with the score of 12½ out of 16, ahead of such strong opponents as Duras, Schlechter and Tchigorin, without losing a single game.



132. The last photograph of Emanuel Lasker, taken seven months before his death.

On the Chess-board lies and hypocrisy do not survive long. The creative combination lays bare the presumption of a lie; the merciless fact; culminating in a checkmate, contradicts the hypocrite. Our little Chess is one of the sanctuaries, where this principle of justice has occasionally had to hide to gain sustenance and a respite, after the army of mediocrities had driven it from the market-place. And many a man, struck by injustice as, say, Socrates and Shakespeare were struck, has found justice realised on the Chess-board and has thereby recovered his courage and his vitality to continue to play the game of Life. Later generations, not so narrow-minded as ours, will recognize and appreciate this merit of our noble game. (Lasker in *Lasker's Manual of Chess*, 1932)



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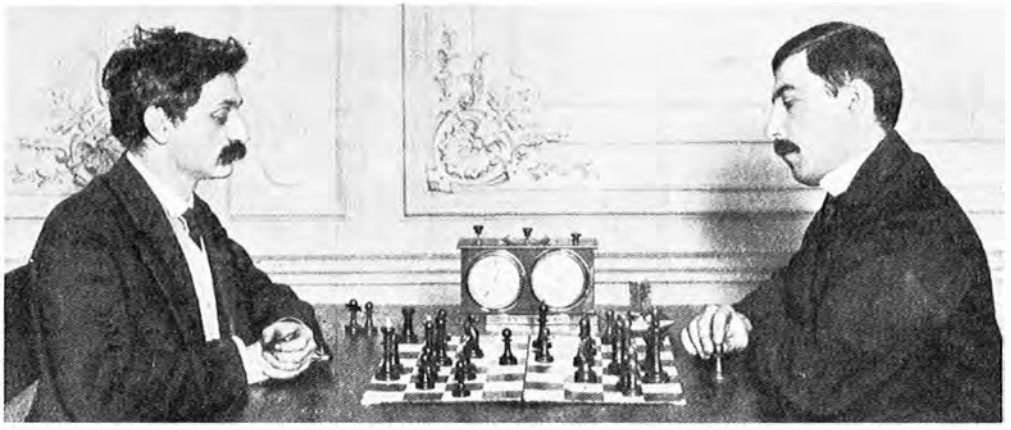

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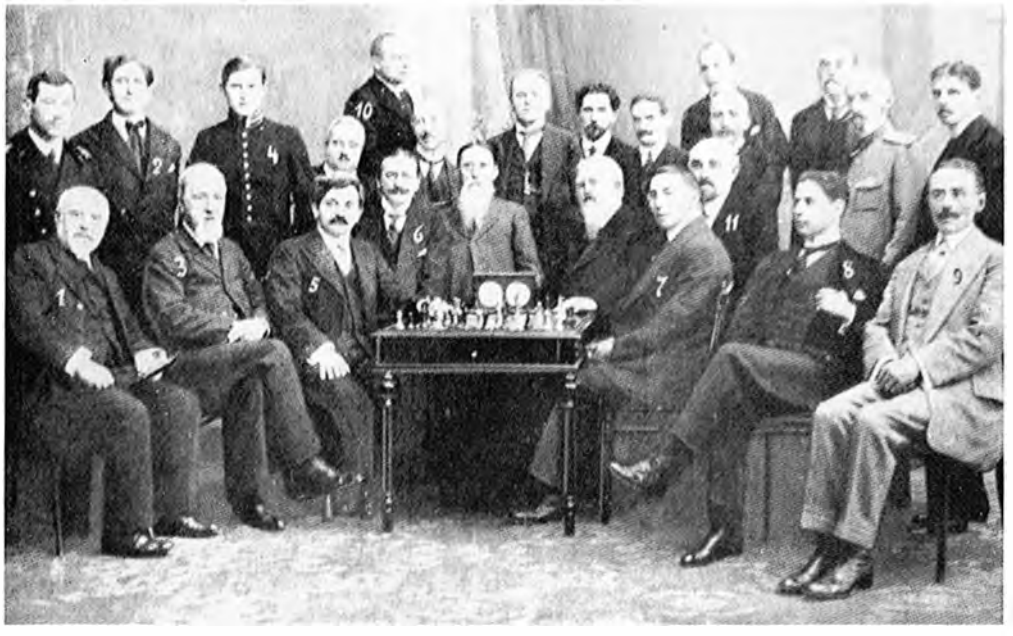


135

133. One of the earliest known photographs of Alexander Alekhine (left). He is playing Peter Romanovsky (1892–1964) at the Russian National Amateur Tournament held concurrently with the grandmaster event at St. Petersburg in 1909. This was Alekhine's first tournament victory, achieved when he was only 16 years old. Romanovsky won two Soviet championships in the 1920s and was one of the founders of the Soviet school of chess.

134. Lasker (left) playing Rubinstein at St. Petersburg 1909. Although he was brilliantly beaten by the young Polish genius in their individual game, by the final round Lasker managed to catch his rival and they tied for first prize.

135. The participants at St. Petersburg 1914: 1, Gunsberg; 2, Marshall; 3, Blackburne; 4, Alekhine; 5, Lasker; 6, Tarrasch; 7, Rubinstein; 8, Capablanca; 9, Janowski; 10, Nimzovich; 11, Bernstein.

136

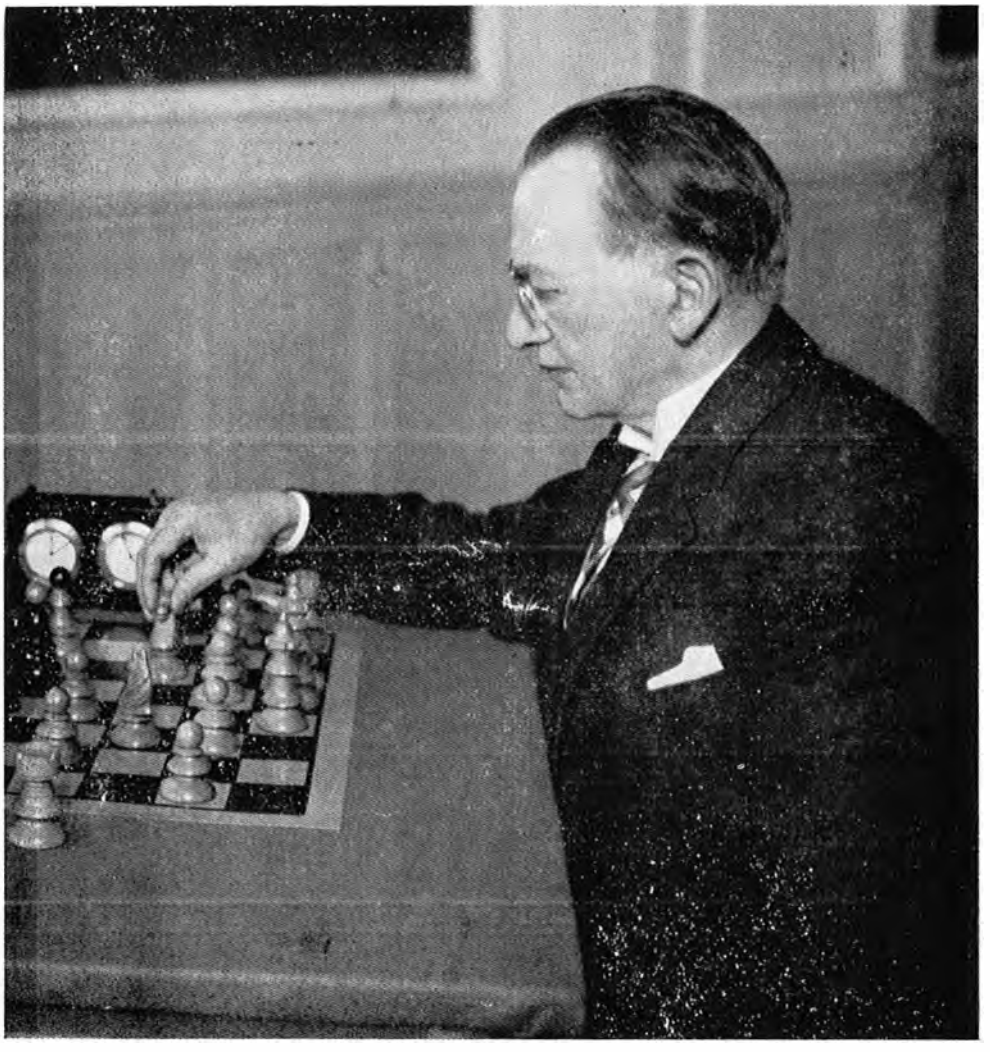
137

136. Probably no one has left such a rich legacy of classically beautiful and technically flawless games as Akiba Rubinstein (1882-1961). Born in a Polish ghetto near the city of Lodz this young rabbinical student first learned the chess moves at the relatively late age of 16, and soon abandoned his Talmudic studies for chess. Within five years, living in virtual isolation from any serious chess activity, he made himself into a player of master strength by dint of incredibly self-disciplined study. After a respectable fifth place in his first tournament (the Russian championship at Kiev 1904), he came in equal first with Duras at the Barmen Hauptturnier of 1905, equal third with Burn at Ostend 1906 (behind Schlechter and Maróczy), and equal first with Bernstein at the Ostend masters tournament of 1907 (which many feel was stronger than the grandmaster event); finally, by winning the memorable Karslbad tournament of 1907, Rubinstein demonstrated that a new and profound force had arrived on the chess scene. Between 1907 and 1914 Rubinstein was the most successful tournament player in the world, failing only three times to achieve either first or second place in the 18 events in which he participated.

Rubinstein seemed destined to become the next world champion, but it was not to be. He had always been somewhat eccentric, and after the war these traits became more pronounced: he heard mysterious noises and could occasionally be seen talking to himself. He was unable to sustain his concentration and would occasionally commit terrible blunders. This tragic mental deterioration, coupled with the phenomenal rise of Capablanca, put an end to his world title hopes. But he could still play very brilliantly, even though during the 1920s his results were more erratic. His most notable results during this period were first at Vienna 1922, ahead of Tartakower and Alkehine, second at Baden-Baden 1925, behind Alekhine, and third at San Remo 1930 behind Alekhine and Nimzovich. He also led the Polish team to their only Olympiad victory, at Hamburg in 1930. But in 1933 his mental illness became so severe that he had to be institutionalized; although he partially recovered he was never able to play tournament chess again.

With the possible exception of Capablanca, Rubinstein had the most pleasingly aesthetic style of all the great masters, and although this has never been clearly pointed out, no one introduced more durable and correct openings variations into master play than Rubinstein although he wrote little and saved his discoveries for actual play. Rubinstein's Defense to the once very popular Four Knights Game (1. P-K4, P-K4; 2. N-KB3, N-QB3; 3. N-B3, N-B3; 4. B-N5, N-Q5) has all but banished this opening from contemporary practice. He also introduced the best continuations against both the Tarrasch Defense to the Queen's Gambit and the Nimzo-Indian Defense. And he invented two highly difficult though still occasionally played defenses to the King's Pawn, namely the Rubinstein variation of the French Defense (1. P-K4, P-K3; 2. P-Q4, P-Q4; 3. N-QB3, P × P) and his very sharp variation in the Sicilian Defense (1. P-K4, P-QB4; 2. N-KB3, N-KB3).

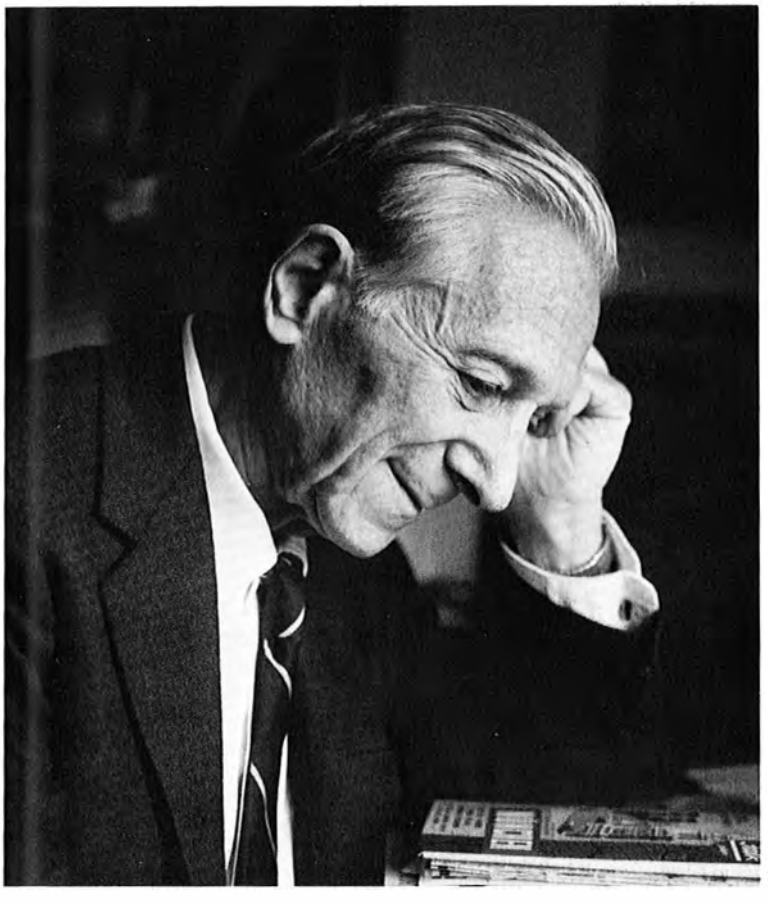
137. Rubinstein, Landau, Colle and Tartakower (from left to right) at Rotterdam 1931. This small double-round tourney was won by the Dutch master Landau. Rubinstein, now near the end of his career, could score only two points out of six and placed last.



138. Dr. Siegbert Tarrasch in later years (ca. 1930).

Chess is a form of intellectual productiveness, therein lies its peculiar charm. Intellectual productiveness is one of the greatest joys—if not the greatest one—of human existence. It is not everyone who can write a play, or build a bridge, or even make a good joke. But in chess everyone can, everyone must, be intellectually productive and so can share in this select delight. I have always a slight feeling of pity for the man who has no knowledge of chess, just as I would pity the man who has remained ignorant of love. Chess, like love, like music, has the power to make men happy. (Tarrasch in *The Game of Chess*, 1935)

139

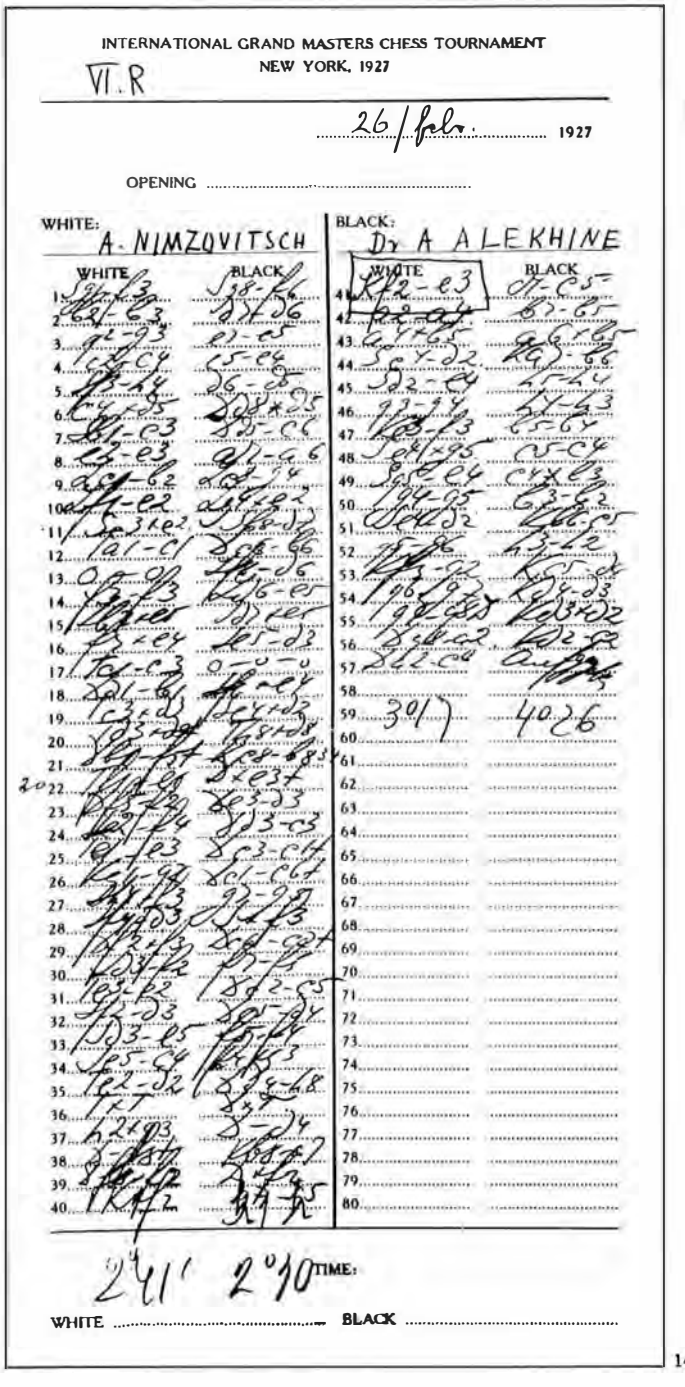


140

139. The official group picture of the players at New York 1924. Seated from left to right: Yates, Capablanca, Janowski, Edward Lasker and Emanuel Lasker. Standing, from left to right: Marshall, Tartakower, Maróczy, Alekhine, Réti and Bogoljubow.

Alekhine's *Book of the New York International Chess Tournament 1924* is one of the great modern classics of chess literature.

140. Edward Lasker (1885–1981), long America's oldest and most beloved *masteremeritus*, was born in Germany but emigrated to the United States shortly after the outbreak of World War I, and became a citizen in 1921. A very accomplished engineer and inventor, he only found time to play serious chess intermittently, but did win five U.S. Open Championships (1916, 1917, 1919, 1920, 1921) and lost a match for the United States championship to Marshall in 1923 by the very narrow score of 9½–8½. After 1931 he played tournament chess very infrequently, preferring to devote himself to his profession and to writing. He is chiefly noted for several highly entertaining and popular books, including *Chess Strategy, The Adventure of Chess, Chess Secrets I Learned from the Masters* and *Chess for Fun and Chess for Blood.*



INTERNATIONAL GRAND MASTERS CHESS TOURNAMENT
NEW YORK, 1927

VI. R

26 / feb. 1927

OPENING

WHITE: A. NIMZOVITSCH

BLACK: Dr A ALEKHINE

	WHITE	BLACK		WHITE	BLACK
1			41	Kt2-e3	
2			42		
3			43		
4			44		
5			45		
6			46		
7			47		
8			48		
9			49		
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11			51		
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19			59	30	40 26
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27			67		
28			68		
29			69		
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38			78		
39			79		
40			80		

2h41' 2h10 TIME:

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142

The New York International Chess Master's Tournament 1924

ALAMAC HOTEL
71st Street and Broadway, New York

XIV
67

Date April 5 1924

Opening

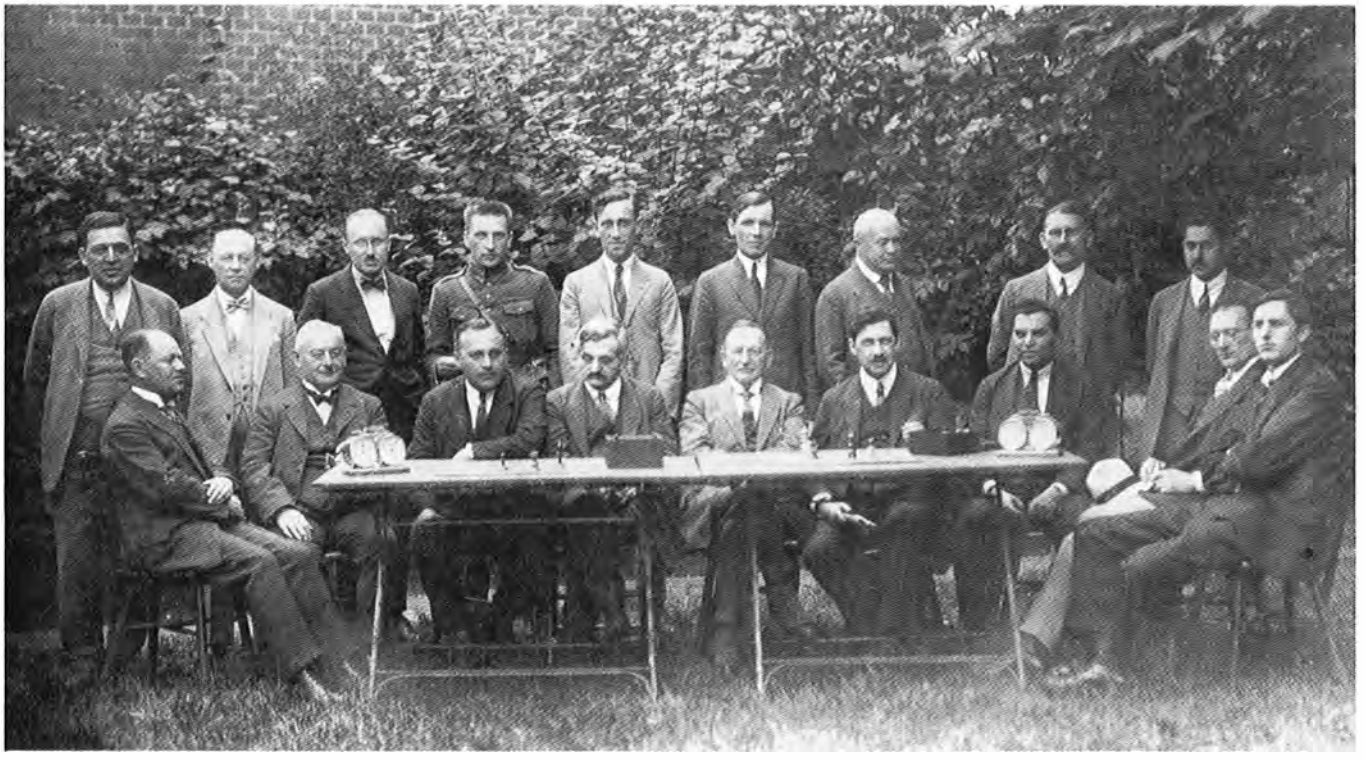
WHITE Mr. J R Capablanca BLACK Mr. Dr. E. Lasker.

	White	Black		White	Black
1	P-Q4	Kt-KB3	31	Kt x B ch	Q x Kt
2	P-QB4	P-QB3	32	P-K Kt4	P x P
3	Kt-QB3	P-Q4	33	Q-R7 ch	K-B1
4	P x P	P x P	34	R-R6	B-Kt1
5	Kt-B3	Kt-B3	35	Q-R8 ch	K-Kt2
6	B-B4	P-K3	36	R x R	P x R
7	P-K3	B-K2	37	K-K1	Q-K3
8	B-Q3	0-0	38	K x P	Q x Q ch
9	0-0	Kt-KR4	39	K x Q	B-Q4
10	B-K5	P-K B4	40	P-Q Kt4	P-QR3
11	R-B1	Kt-B3	41	K-Kt4	B-B5
12	B x Kt	P x B	42	P-B5	B-Kt6
13	Kt-KR4	K-R1	43	K-B4	B-B7
14	P-K B4	R-K Kt1	44	K-K5	K-B2
15	R-B3	B-Q2	45	P-R4	K-Kt2
16	R-R3	B-K1	46	P-Q5	B x P
17	P-R3	R-Kt2	47	P-Q6	P-B4
18	R-Kt3	R x R	48	P x P	B-B3
19	P x R	R-B1	49	K-K6	P-R4
20	K-B2	Kt-R4	50	P-B6 ch	Resigns.
21	Q-B3	Kt-B5	51	2.37	3.07
22	Q-K2	Kt-Q3	52		
23	R-K R	Kt-K5 ch	53		
24	B x Kt	B P x B	54		
25	Q-Kt4	P-B4	55		
26	Kt x P	P x Kt	56		
27	Q x P	P x R	57		
28	P-K Kt4	R-B3	58		
29	P-Kt5	K-Kt1	59		
30	Kt x Q P	B-B2	60		

143

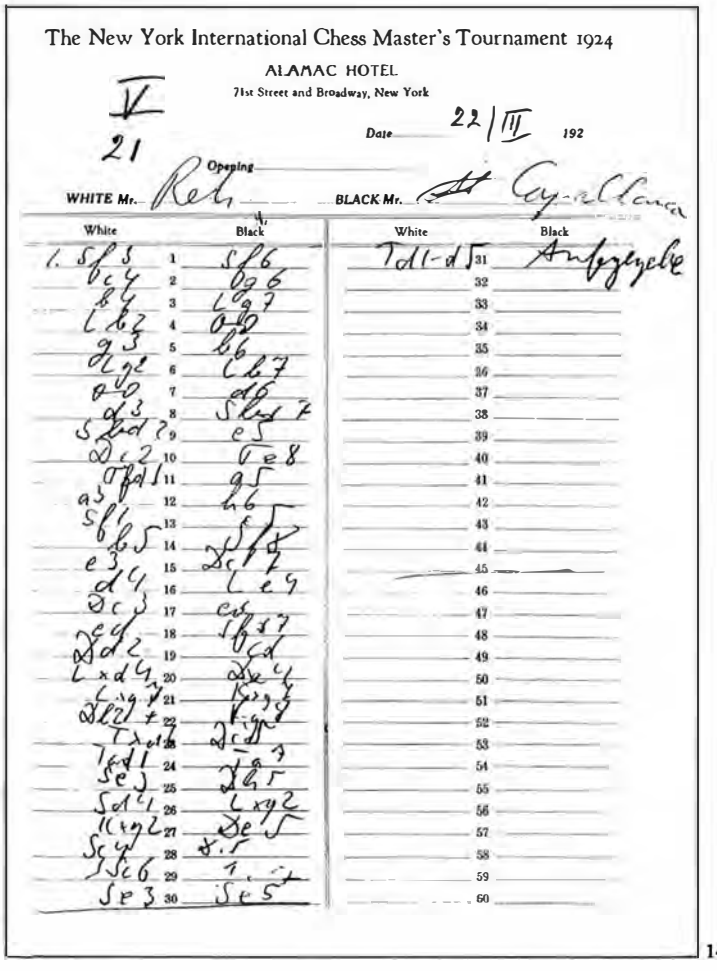
141 & 142. In tournament chess both players are required to keep a complete and accurate score of the game. This is done to preserve the game, to avoid possible disputes over time control, and to check for a three-fold repetition of the position—a player on the move may declare his intention to the referee of making a move which would cause a position already reached in the game twice to be achieved a third time, and thereby correctly claim a draw.

Above are two interesting examples of score sheets from famous games. The first is the score of Nimzovich's hand of a game he won from Alekhine at New York 1927; it is written in German algebraic. It was the last game he ever won from Alekhine, but this did not prevent his rival from finishing second to Nimzovich's third in this tournament, thereby securing the right to be Capablanca's next challenger for the world championship. The second is Capablanca's score of his fine victory over Emanuel Lasker at New York 1924; Lasker, however, won the tournament anyway, this being his only loss. Interestingly, both Capablanca and Lasker (see page 82) wrote their scores in English descriptive notation.



143. The players at Mährisch-Ostrau 1923. Seated from left to right: Spielmann, Tietz (a patron), Bogoljubow, Lasker, Tarrasch, Wolf, Reti, Grünfeld and Euwe. Standing from left to right: two amateurs, Selesniev, Hromadka, Walter, Pokorny and three more amateurs (Rubinstein and Tartakower, who also played, are not present).

After two years away from the game, Lasker, needing money and perhaps also curious to see how he would fare against the new "hypermodern" generation of masters, chose this tournament to stage a comeback. Despite his lack of practice Lasker played as powerfully as ever and won first prize without the loss of a single game, ahead of such "young Turks" as Réti, Grünfeld, Euwe and Tartakower.



The New York International Chess Master's Tournament 1924

ALAMAC HOTEL
71st Street and Broadway, New York

V
21

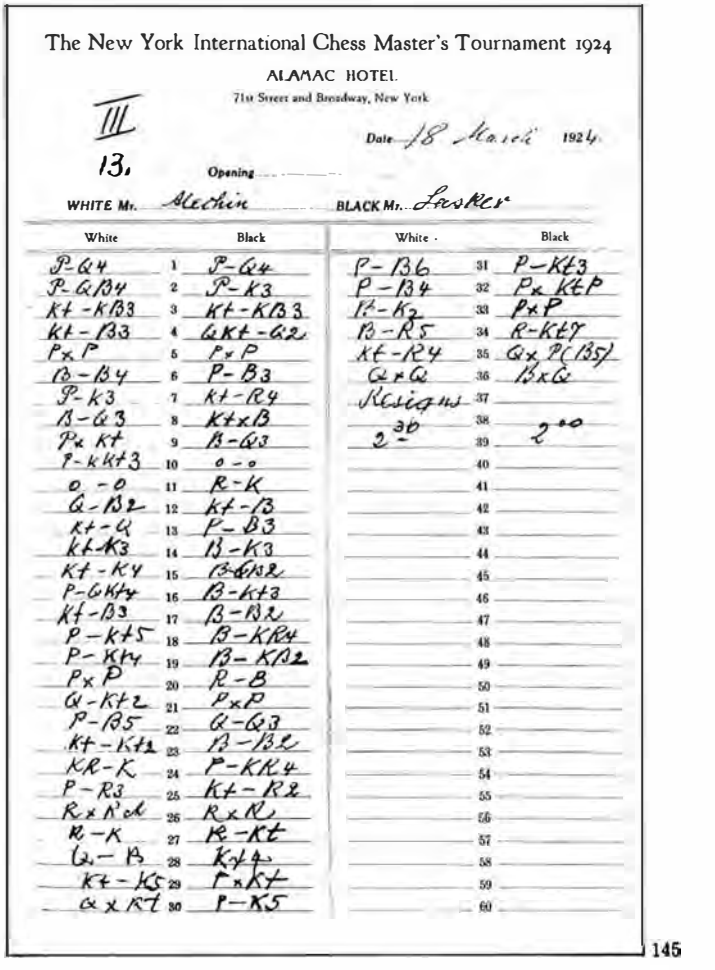
Date 22/III 192

Opening

WHITE Mr. Réti BLACK Mr. Capablanca

White		Black	White		Black
1. Sf3	1	Sf6	Td1-d5	31	Aufgegeben
c4	2	g6		32	
b4	3	Lg7		33	
Lb2	4	0-0		34	
g3	5	b6		35	
Lg2	6	Lb7		36	
0-0	7	d6		37	
d3	8	Sbd7		38	
Sbd2	9	e5		39	
Dc2	10	Te8		40	
Tfd1	11	g5		41	
a3	12	h6		42	
Sf1	13	c6		43	
b5	14	Sf8		44	
e3	15	Dc7		45	
d4	16	Le7		46	
Dc3	17	e4		47	
e4	18	Sh7		48	
Dd2	19	cd		49	
Lxd4	20	Dxe4		50	
Sg3	21	Kg7		51	
Dd2+	22	Kg8		52	
Txd4	23	Dc6		53	
Td1	24	Dg5		54	
Se3	25	Dh5		55	
Sdc4	26	Lxg2		56	
Kxg2	27	De5		57	
Sc4	28	f5		58	
Sc6	29	f4		59	
Se3	30	Se5		60	

144



The New York International Chess Master's Tournament 1924

ALAMAC HOTEL
71st Street and Broadway, New York

III
13.

Date 18 March 1924

Opening

WHITE Mr. Alechin BLACK Mr. Lasker

White		Black	White		Black
P-Q4	1	P-Q4	P-B6	31	P-Kt3
P-QB4	2	P-K3	P-B4	32	P×Kt P
Kt-KB3	3	Kt-KB3	P-K7	33	P×P
Kt-B3	4	QKt-Q2	B-R5	34	R-Kt7
P×P	5	P×P	Kt-R4	35	Q×P(B5)
B-B4	6	P-B3	Q×Q	36	B×Q
P-K3	7	Kt-R4	Resigns	37	
B-Q3	8	Kt×B	2-30	38	2-00
P×Kt	9	B-Q3		39	
P-KKt3	10	0-0		40	
0-0	11	R-K		41	
Q-B2	12	Kt-B3		42	
Kt-Q	13	P-B3		43	
Kt-K3	14	B-K3		44	
Kt-K4	15	B-QB2		45	
P-QKt4	16	B-Kt3		46	
Kt-B3	17	B-B2		47	
P-Kt5	18	B-KR4		48	
P-Kt4	19	B-KB2		49	
P×P	20	R-B		50	
Q-Kt2	21	P×P		51	
P-B5	22	Q-Q3		52	
Kt-Kt2	23	B-B2		53	
KR-K	24	P-KK4		54	
P-R3	25	Kt-R2		55	
R×KtP	26	R×R		56	
R-K	27	R-Kt		57	
Q-B	28	K-Kt4		58	
Kt-K5	29	P×Kt		59	
Q×Kt	30	P-K5		60	

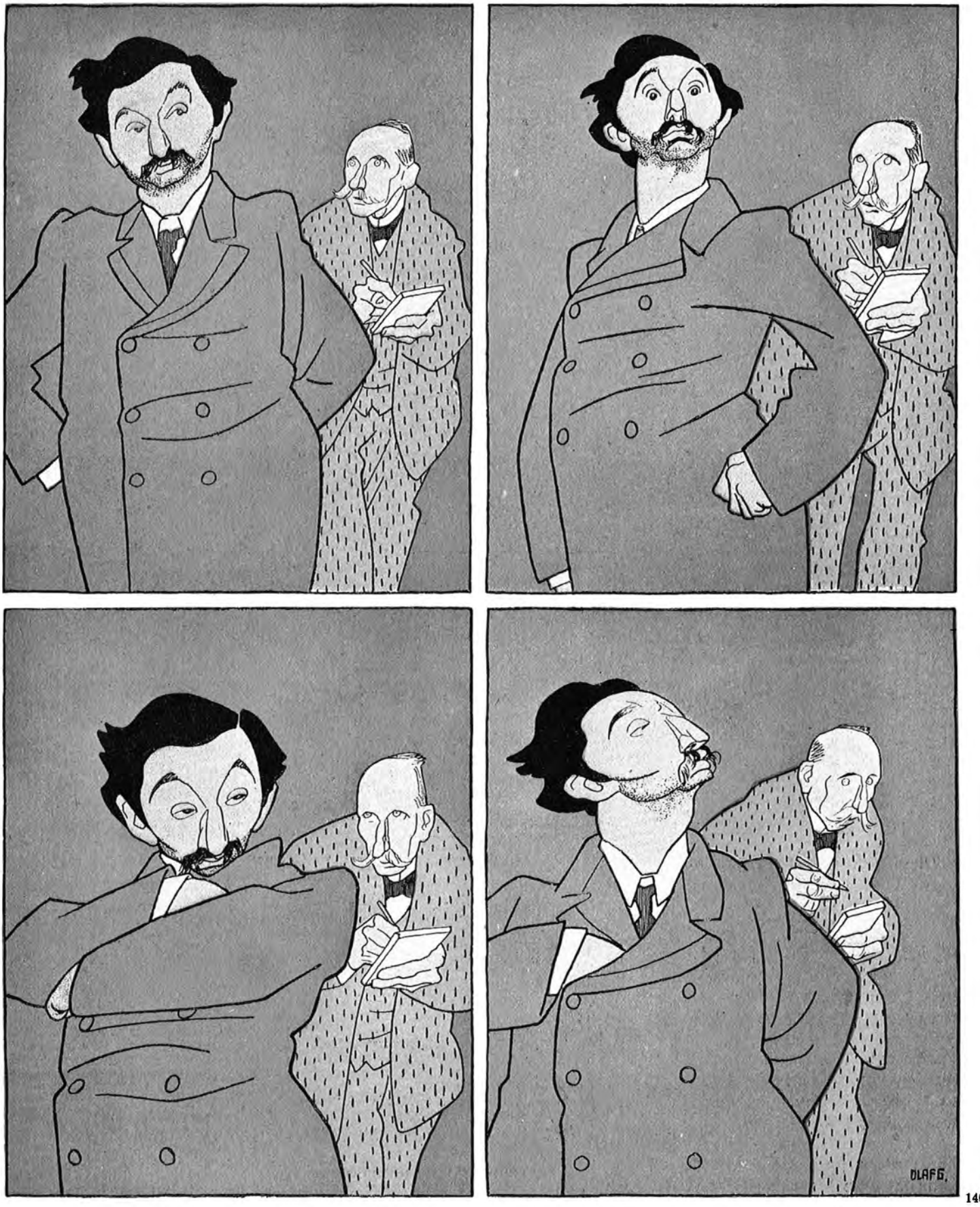
145

144 & 145. Two more original score sheets of famous games.

On the left is Réti's score of the renowned game he won from Capablanca at New York 1924. Playing his own opening (1. N-KB3). Réti caused a sensation not only because he had beaten the new and seemingly invincible world champion, but because this was only the second tournament game Capablanca had lost within ten years (the other being to Oscar Chajes in the New York tournament of 1916). Although playing frequently, Capablanca did not lose a single serious game for almost eight consecutive years—a record unmatched by any other modern player.

On the right is Dr. Emanuel Lasker's score of his first game with Alekhine at New York 1924 (this was a double-round tournament). Using logical and deceptively simple moves the ex-champion decisively refuted the young Russian's over-elaborate maneuvers and won with a crushing attack.

146. Lasker was often ridiculed in the press, both for his constant demands for decent pay and for his pronouncements on chess matters. "How long have you been working at the game?" asks the reporter in this cartoon from the August 1908 issue of *Simplicissimus*, the German humor magazine. "Game?!?!" cries Lasker. "Chess is an art!!"



146

147

147. Capablanca and his first wife in 1922. Although it produced two children, Raul and Gloria, this marriage later ended in divorce. In 1937 Capablanca remarried, this time to Olga Choubaroff, a beautiful Russian emigré whom he met in New York. This second marriage was a very happy one.

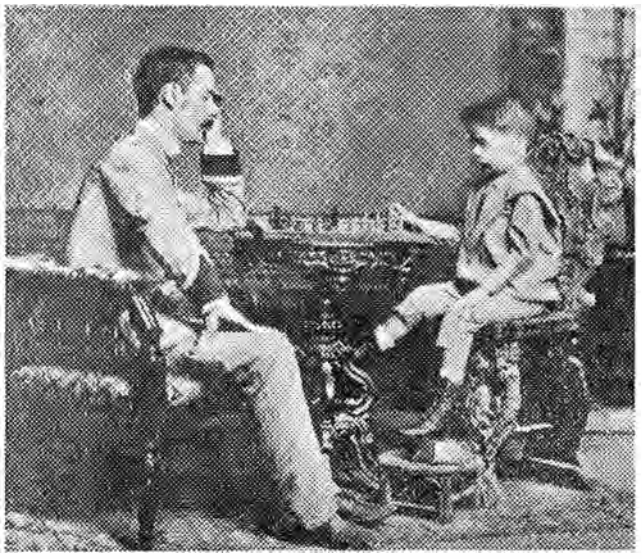
148. A display of commemorative stamps issued by the Cuban government after Capablanca's death. Even today Capablanca is venerated in Cuba. The Capablanca Memorial Tournament is held every year, and is always a very strong international affair with generous prizes.

148

149. Capablanca in 1920, when he was at the very height of his powers.

> There have been times in my life when I came very near thinking that I could not lose even a single game. Then I would be beaten, and the lost game would bring me back from dreamland to earth. Nothing is so healthy as a thrashing at the proper time, and from few won games have I learned as much as I have from most of my defeats. Of course I would not like to be beaten at a critical moment, but, otherwise, I hope that I may at odd times in the future lose a few more games, if thereby I derive as much benefit as I have obtained from defeats of the past (Capablanca in *My Chess Career*, 1920)

Capablanca wrote this seemingly conceited statement over a year *before* he won the world championship. Yet he sincerely believed that he was virtually unbeatable—and with good cause. He knew that he was born with a greater natural genius for chess than any man who had ever lived. During his entire career, which spanned over 40 years, he only lost 36 serious games.



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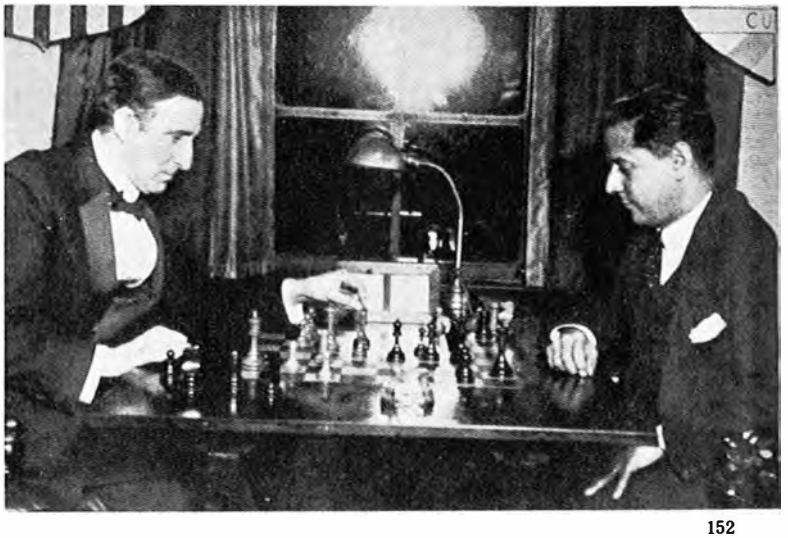


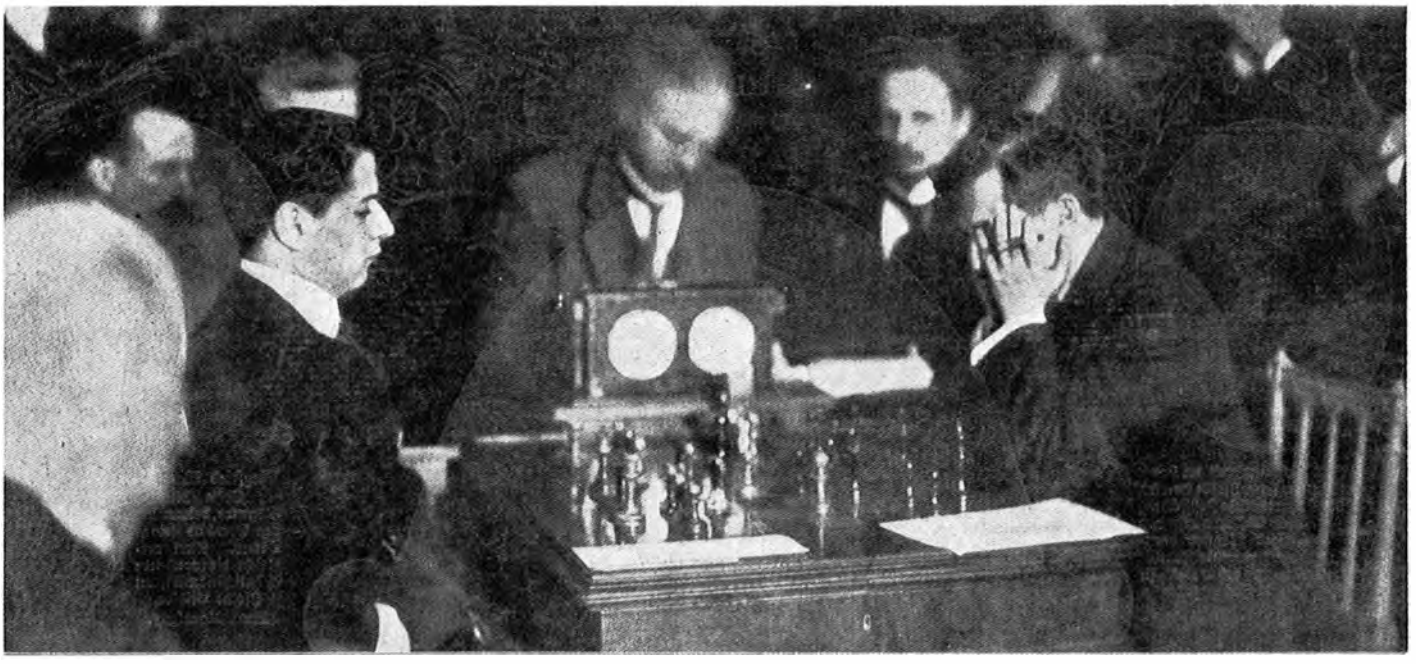
152

151

150 & 151. Capablanca at the age of four playing his father, soon after he learned the moves simply by watching his father play a friend, and the same pair 16 years later. Without receiving any formal instruction, the young Capablanca was able to beat his father twice three days after he first saw the game played. As Réti said many years later, "Chess was his mother tongue."

152. Capablanca playing Marshall at New York 1927.

After an astonishingly successful American exhibition tour in 1908, during which he scored 703 wins, 19 draws, and only 12 losses, Capablanca challenged Frank Marshall to a match, held in 1909. The totally unexpected result—poor Marshall slaughtered by the score of 8 to 1, with 14 games drawn—made Capablanca an instant chess celebrity.



153. A young and haughty Capablanca (left) playing Lasker in their first game at St. Petersburg in 1914; this game was eventually drawn. In their legendary second game Lasker psychologically outmaneuvered Capablanca by playing a drawish variation even though he badly needed a win—which he easily achieved against his flustered opponent. But this victory only temporarily delayed the inevitable. In 1921 a more mature Capablanca easily disposed of the older champion in their prematurely ended match.

José Raúl Capablanca, probably the strongest natural player and most impressive chess child prodigy of all time, was born on November 19, 1888, in Havana. In 1901 he won the Cuban championship, defeating J. Corzo, an experienced master. Sent to the United States to complete his education, he dropped out of Columbia University after a year to pursue his chess career. When he defeated Marshall in their 1909 match the chess world was still somewhat skeptical about Capablanca's ability, assuming that the erratic Marshall had merely been in bad form. But in the San Sebastian tournament of 1911 Capablanca removed all doubt by severely beating Nimzovich and Bernstein (both of whom had objected to his participation because of his inexperience) and winning the event ahead of Rubinstein, then considered Lasker's most likely challenger for the world championship. His career advanced rapidly; he was helped by his appointment to a diplomatic post with the Cuban government, which freed him to travel around the world with a secure income. In 1913 Capablanca played his famous series of little stake matches and exhibition games against the best European masters. Among his victims were Réti, Tartakower, Bernstein, Teichmann and Mieses; only E. Znosko-Borovsky managed a draw.

During the war years Capablanca kept in form by winning three small tournaments in New York, ahead of Marshall, Janowski and Kostich. After capturing the world title in 1921 he easily took first prize in the strong London tournament of 1922, ahead of Alekhine, Vidmar and Rubinstein. In these years his style became drier and more cautious, and he began to rely on his superior technique to grind down the lesser masters, while at the same time seeming more content than before to draw with those among his peers who played "correctly." At New York in 1924 he did not come close to overhauling a revitalized Lasker, and at Moscow in 1925 Capablanca again disappointed, finishing third behind Bogoljubow and Lasker and even losing games to two of the weaker Russian entrants. Total domination over his colleagues returned at the very strong six-master match tournament at New York in 1927, where Capablanca won easily ahead of Alekhine, Nimzovich, Vidmar, Spielmann and Marshall—but this was to be his last triumph as world champion. In a 1926 newspaper article, Capablanca candidly and prophetically described himself as lacking in chess ambition.

And there was a demon lurking in the wings, a man so consumed with maniacal ambition that he had spent the last dozen years studying Capablancas's weaknesses, refuting his openings, and strengthening and preparing himself with but one goal in mind—to defeat Capablanca. That man was Alexander Alekhine. In the longest (September 15 to November 29, 1927) and fiercest official match for the world chess championship ever held, Alekhine, playing with unbelievable stamina, patience and profundity, defeated Capablanca by the score of 6 to 3, with 25 draws, at Buenos Aires. For the remainder of his life Capablanca unsuccessfully tried to get Alekhine to give him a return match. But Alekhine was afraid—even he did not believe that he could defeat "the chess machine" twice.

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154. Capablanca giving a simultaneous exhibition in Berlin during the summer of 1914.

155. After losing his title Capablanca achieved some respectable tournament results, but his drawing proclivities enabled the more aggressive grandmasters like Bogoljubow and Nimzovich to beat him out of first place at such events as Bad Kissingen 1928 and Karlsbad 1929. In 1936 Capablanca made a brief comeback perhaps believing that some impressive victories would gain him a match against the new world champion, Max Euwe. He won the very strong Moscow tournament of 1936 ahead of Botvinnik and Flohr, and tied for first with Botvinnik in the equally strong Nottingham tourney ahead of Fine, Euwe, Reshevsky and Alekhine. But in 1937 Alekhine regained his title and Capablanca, from this period on, began to suffer from high blood pressure. His amazingly quick and intuitive play became dulled—he would now occasionally make terrible blunders, and even overstep the time limit in bad positions. At the 1938 A.V.R.O. tourney he could only place next to last, above Flohr. Capablanca died of a stroke at the Manhattan Chess Club in New York City on March 7, 1942.

As many commentators have said, Capablanca made chess seem easy; his best games are incredibly beautiful, lucid, economical and imaginative. Fred Reinfeld once wrote in criticism of Capablanca that "what he didn't see at once he didn't see at all." But he didn't miss much—probably less than anyone who has ever played chess.

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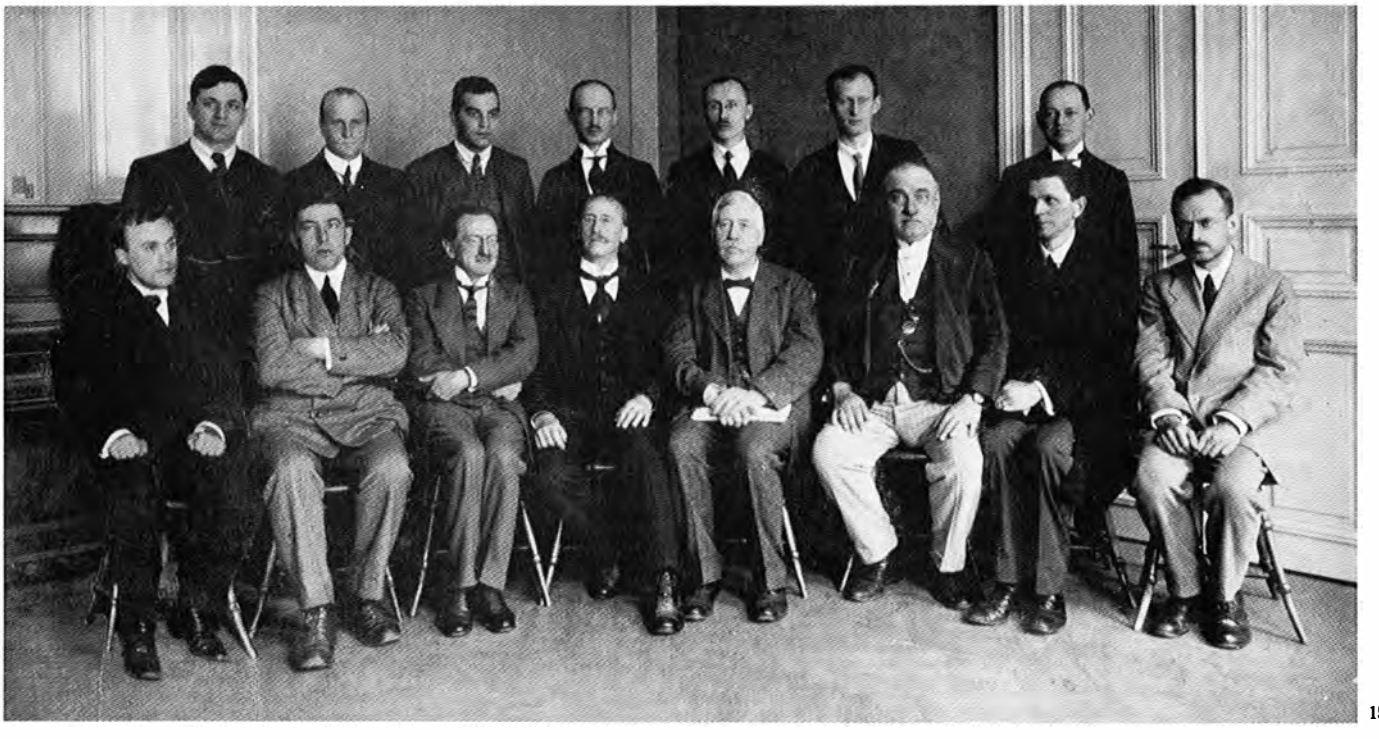

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156. The great Hungarian classical grandmaster Geza Maróczy as a young man, ca. 1907. Maróczy was most noted for his superb positional and endgame play. At Vienna 1899 he was awarded the prize for the most beautiful game in the tournament, usually given for the best attack, for a marvelously subtle knight and pawn ending he won against Marco.

157. Frederick Dewhurst Yates (1884–1932) was one of the strongest English players during the early part of the twentieth century, and winner of the British championship six times. An impulsive but very dangerous attacking player, Yates's international results were erratic, probably because he lacked the stamina to play consistently well. He habitually defeated many of his toughest opponents in a given tournament while losing to an equal number of weaker ones. His brilliancy prize victories against Alekhine at Karlsbad 1923 and over Vidmar at San Remo 1930 (called by Alekhine the best game since the war) have became standard anthology pieces and are examples of Yates at his best. Because Yates decided to become a chess professional during a period when this was a very difficult occupation, he lived in a state of poverty, grinding out chess columns for food money when not playing in tournaments. When he died from asphyxiation caused by a gas leak in his flat it was rumored that he had committed suicide, but this story is completely unsubstantiated.

158. The participants at Göteborg in 1920. Réti won first prize, ahead of Rubinstein and Bogoljubow. It was his first and only clear victory in a major international tournament.

Seated, from left to right: Bogoljubow, Rubinstein, Tarrasch, Mieses, Anderson, Marco, Maróczy and Nimzovich. Standing, from left to right: Kostich, Möller, Réti, Tartakower, Selesniev, Breyer and Spielmann.

159. A rare photograph of Samuel Reshevsky's first tournament appearance. Here he is playing Charles Jaffe at the small six-master tournament held in New York in 1922. Though only 11 years old, Reshevsky finished with an even score of 2½ out of 5, behind Edward Lasker and Jaffe, but tied for third through sixth with Janowski, Bigelow and Bernstein.

Reshevsky, born in Poland on November 26, 1911, was a true chess prodigy. Taught the moves at the age of four, he was able to play a blindfold game by the time he was eight. During the years 1917-20 he created a stir in Europe by giving several successful simultaneous displays against some fairly good groups of club players. As a brash and confident youngster he impressed everyone with his maturity—the amusing story is told that he once told the commanding German general of his Polish district: "You play war. I play chess!" Soon after his parents emigrated to the United States in 1920, young "Sammy" was made to curtail his chess activities until he had completed his education. He only played in a few minor tournaments until he graduated from the University of Chicago in 1932. When in 1934 Reshevsky won a strong tournament in New York ahead of Fine and Kashdan, his chess career began in earnest. He was to become the strongest and most successful American grandmaster until the advent of Bobby Fischer.

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160 & 161. Bogoljubow vs. Rubinstein (top) and Marshall vs. Réti (bottom) at the memorable Moscow international tournament in 1925.

By winning this tournament, ahead of nearly all the world's strongest masters including Lasker and Capablanca, Bogoljubow achieved his greatest victory. Here his highly tactical and risky style again bore fruit; although he was badly beaten by Capablanca and Réti, his score of 9 points against the bottom nine players on the score table easily carried him to victory with the comfortable margin of 1½ points over his nearest rival, Lasker.

162. Edgar Colle (1897-1932), probably the best player ever born in Belgium, was one of the main tournament stalwarts during the 1920s. Always a very dangerous tactician capable of beating anyone, Colle's tournament results were uneven mainly becaue he was in very poor health throughout his life. His chief successes were first prize at Meran 1926, ahead of Spielmann, Canal and Przepiorka, and at Scarborough 1930, in front of Maróczy and Rubinstein. In 1924 he crushed Koltanowski in a match for the Belgian championship by the score of 4-0, with 2 draws.

Colle is best remembered today for rediscovering and demonstrating, through many of his best games, that a very old and seemingly slow form of the Queen's Pawn Opening (1. P-Q4, P-Q4; 2. N-KB3, N-KB3; 3. *P-K3*, P-B4; 4. *QN-Q2*) actually does have great attacking potential. Colle showed that if White, after having completed his kingside development, strives for an early *P-K4*, he will have significant attacking chances against any but the best defense. This opening is now known as the Colle System.

162

163. Torre vs. Tartakower at Moscow 1925.

This great tournament is the only event in the history of chess from which actual documentary footage shot during play was later incorporated into a movie. The film is a brief silent Russian comedy entitled *Chess Fever* in which the "hero" becomes so obsessed with chess that he abandons his job, girl friend, etc. for the game.

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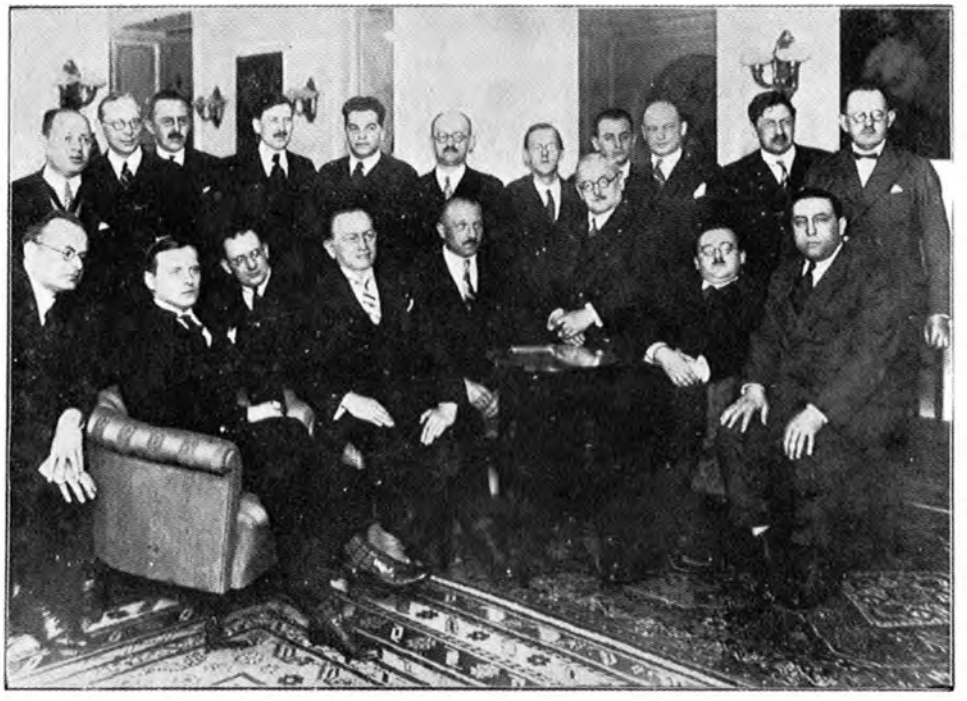
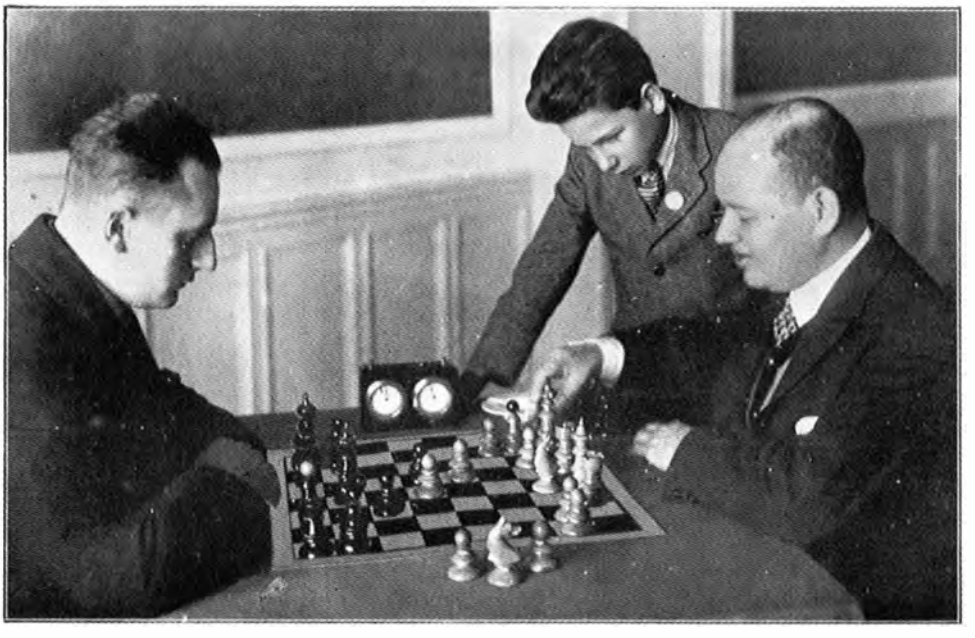


164 a.

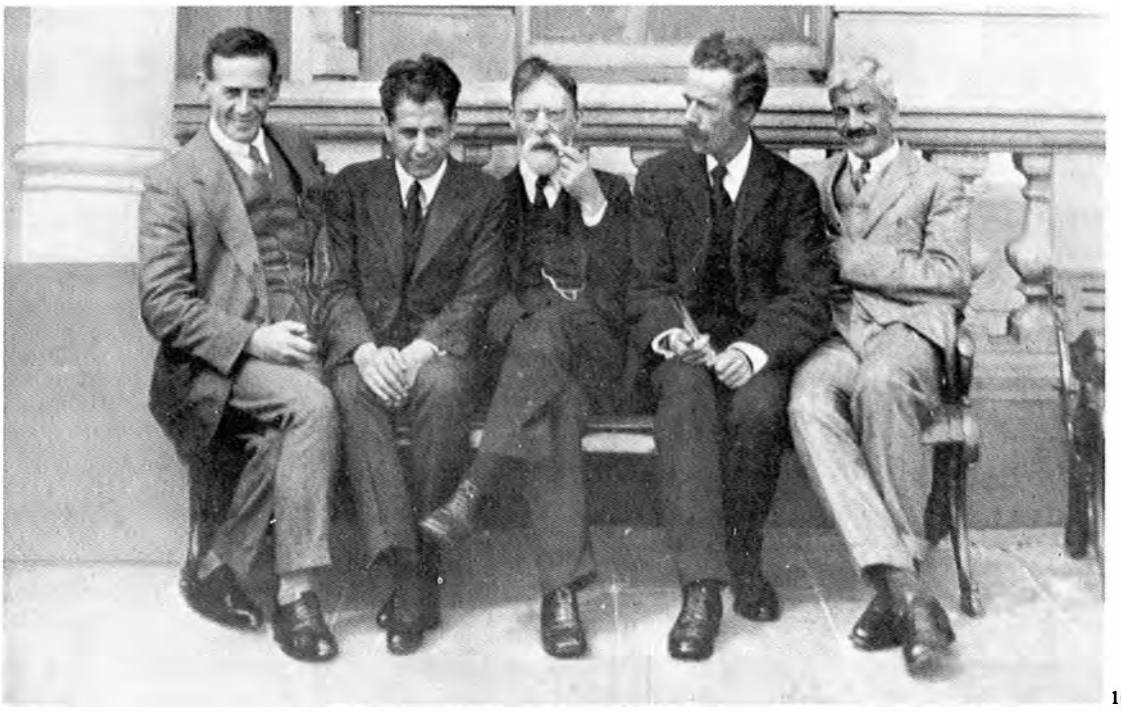


164 b.

164 a. The players at the strong Semmering (Austria) tournament of 1926. Spielmann, having abandoned his beloved gambit openings for the solid Ruy Lopez, just squeezed past Alekhine in the last round and won this great event by the slender margin of half a point.

164 b. Gilg vs. Spielmann at Semmering 1926.

Rudolf Spielmann (1883–1942, dubbed by Tartakower "the last knight of the King's Gambit," was the strongest Austrian-born grandmaster of the twentieth century. His career as a player can be divided into two parts. From about 1905 until 1923 he was the only great master to adopt consistently such daring, albeit dubious openings as the King's Gambit, Bishop's Gambit and Vienna Gambit. While his reckless style made him a favorite with tournament organizers, his results were uneven. Naturally he won the two great gambit tournaments held just before World War I, Abbazia 1912 and Baden bei Wien 1914, but here all the players had to play or accept gambits and Spielmann was in his element. Probably his poor results at Karlsbad and Mahrisch-Ostrau 1923 and Baden-Baden and Moscow 1925 (in none of which did he finish higher than ninth) caused him to set about strengthening the strategical side of his game; from this time on, beginning with first prize at Semmering 1926, he achieved his greatest successes. These include first at Magdeburg 1927, ahead of Bogoljubow, a tie for second and third with Capablanca at Karlsbad 1929, and a very honorable fifth place at Moscow 1935. Spielmann was also a most prolific match player, playing 47 in all, and winning against such tough opponents as Nimzovich (1908), Mieses (1910), Tartakower (1910), Stahlberg (1930), Bogoljubow (1932), and Stoltz (1932). One measure of his ability was his lifetime score against Capablanca—2 wins, 2 losses, and 8 draws. Only Alekhine and Lasker had comparable impressive scores against "the chess machine."



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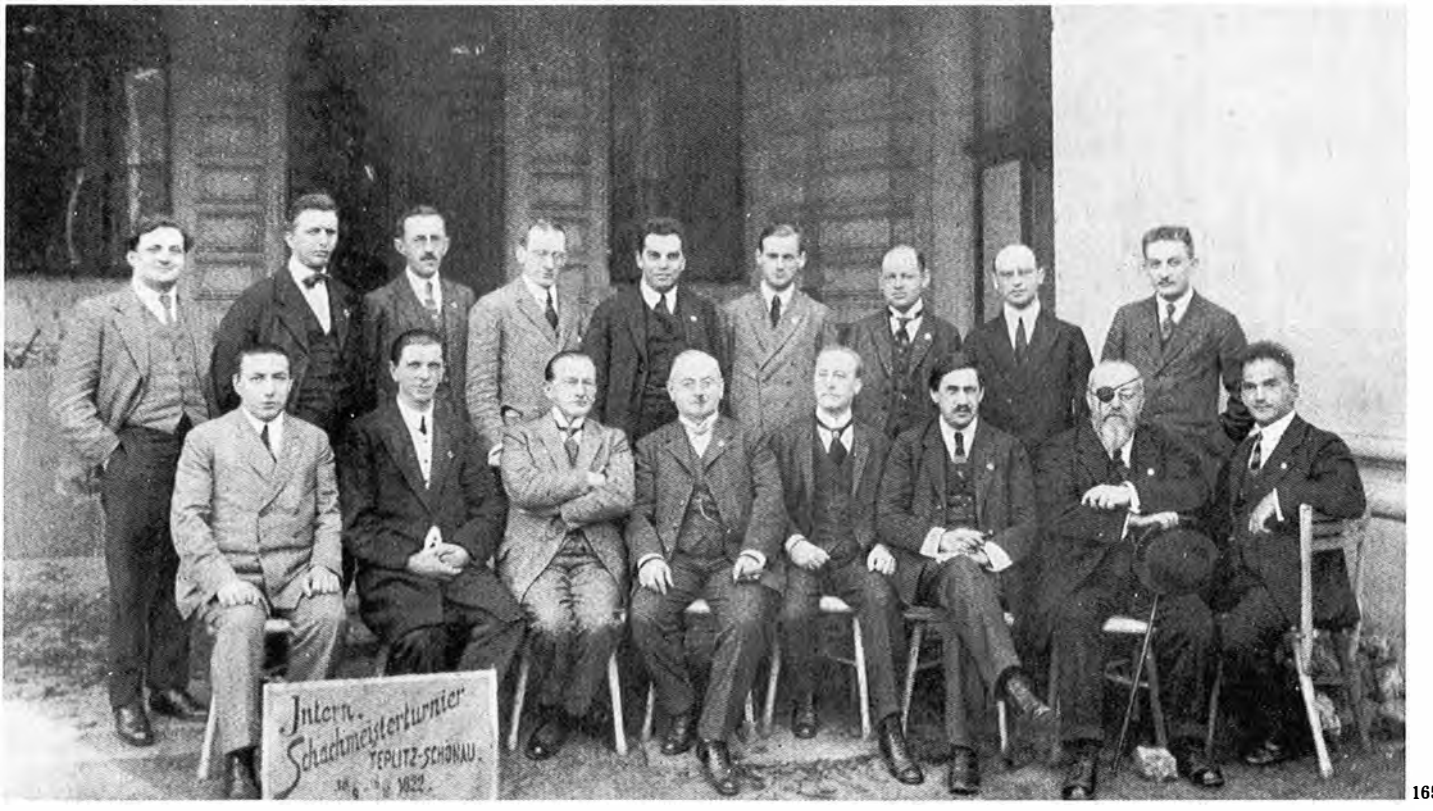


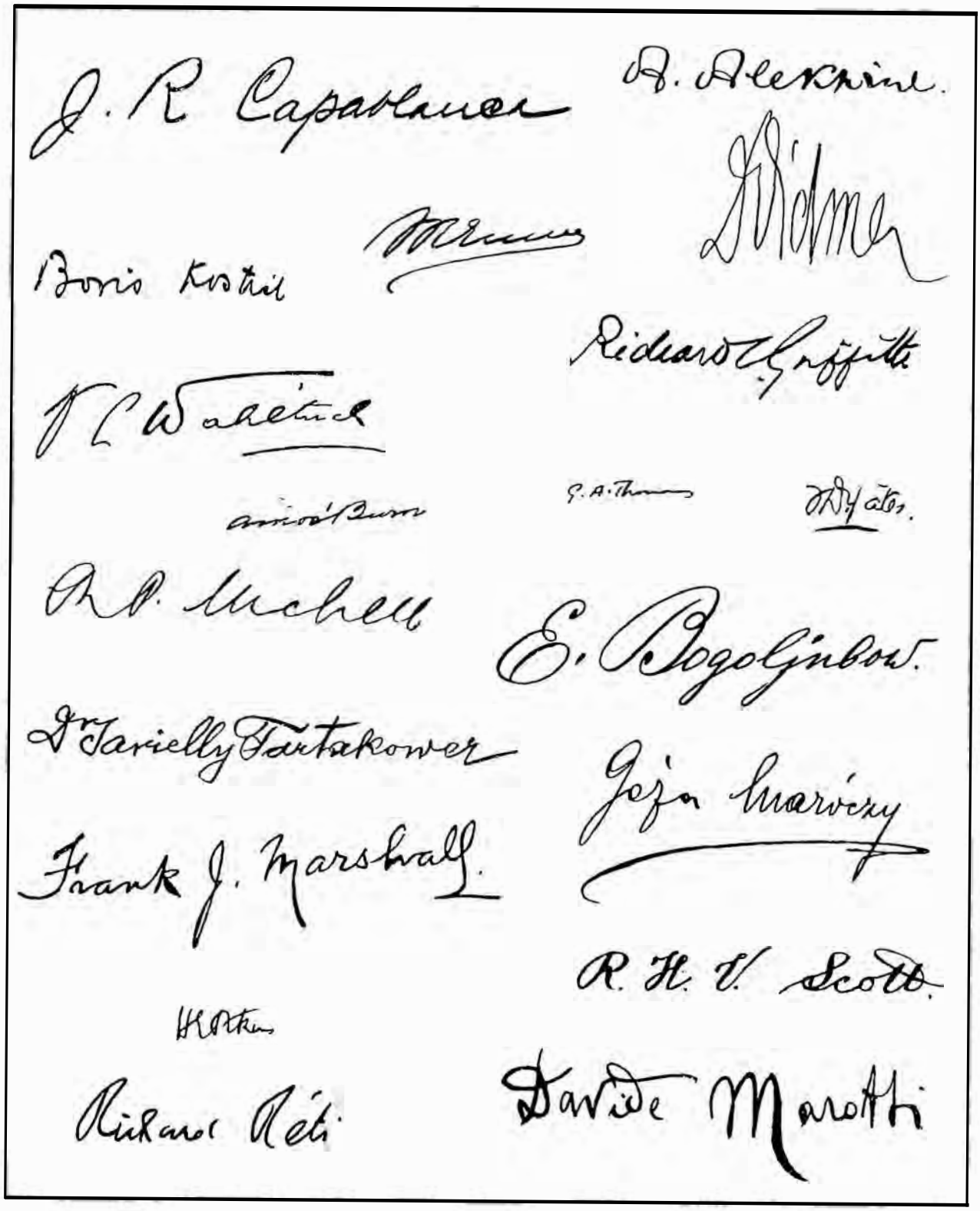
165b.

165a. A group at the Hastings Victory Congress, 1919. Capablanca won this tournament with the overwhelming score of 10½ out of a possible 11 points, allowing a draw only to the Yugoslav master Boris Kostich.

From left to right are: V. L. Wahltuch, Capablanca, Amos Burn (who did not play), Atkins, and Sir George Thomas.

165b. The players at Teplitz-Schönau 1922. In this very strong tournament, Réti and Spielmann, two masters of vastly different temperament, tied for first and second prizes, ahead of Grünfeld and Tartakower, who tied for third and fourth.

Seated, from left to right: Rubinstein, Maróczy, Tarrasch, Tietz (a patron), Mieses, Wolf, Teichmann and Schorr (who edited the beautiful book of the tournament—now a very scarce work). Standing, from left to right: Kostich, Johner, Treybal, Grünfeld, Réti, Sämisch, Spielmann, Tartakower and an amateur.



166. Autograph signatures of prominent chess players—most of whom participated in the London International Chess Congress of 1922. Capablanca easily won this event over Alekhine, Vidmar, Rubinstein and Bogoljubow.

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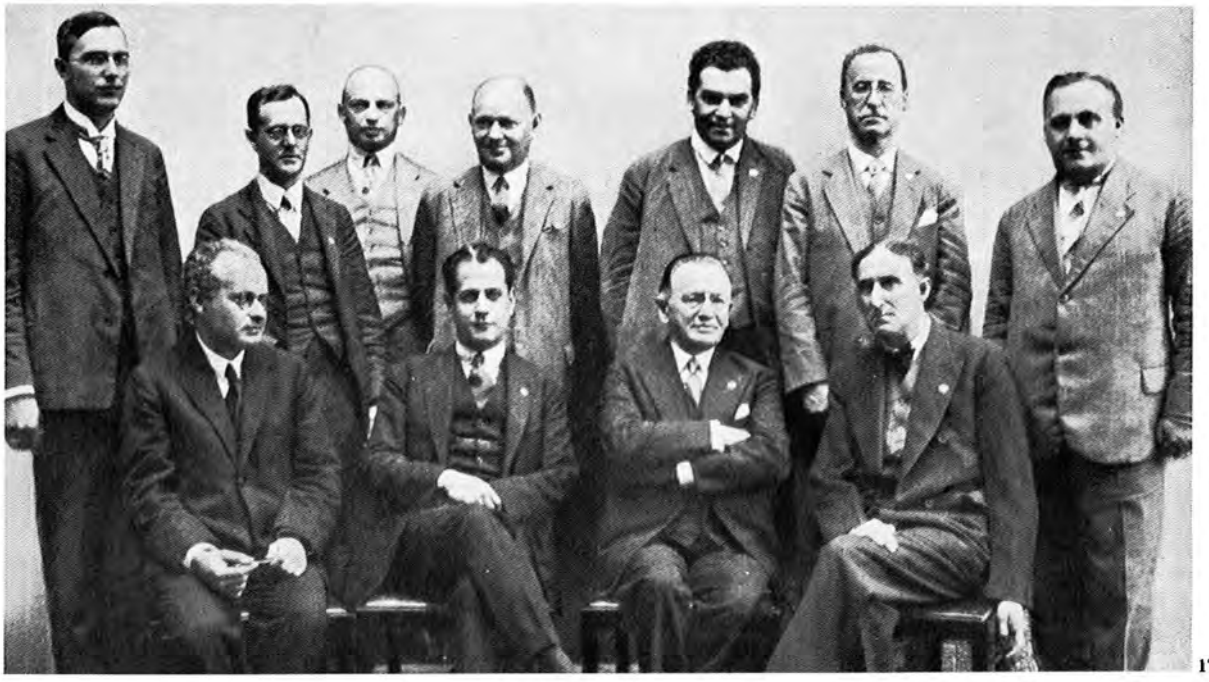
167—170. Some of the players at the tremendously strong Pistyan (Czechoslovakia) tournament of 1922. Bogoljubow won first prize by edging out Alekhine and Spielmann (who tied for second and third) by a margin of half a point. This was his first great victory. Typically, the unorthodox and erratic Tartakower, although he defeated both Alekhine and Bogoljubow, could only finish eighth.

167. Wolf, L. Steiner (who did not play), and Sämisch.

168. Przepiorka playing Bogoljubow.

169. Alekhine balefully staring at the photographer while Marco contemplates his move.

170. Réti playing Euwe.



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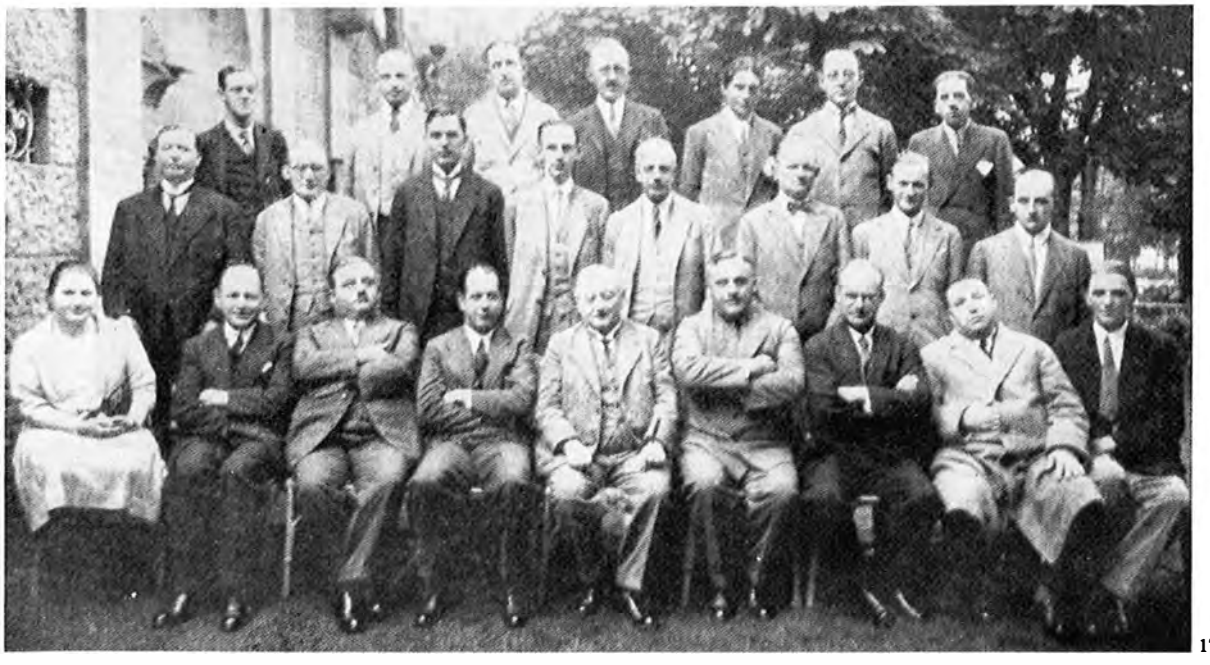

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171. The players at Bad Kissingen 1928. Although given a severe trouncing in their individual encounter, Bogoljubow still won this very tough event ahead of Capablanca, who was again unable to score enough full points against the "tail-enders."

Seated, from left to right: Nimzovich, Capablanca, Tarrasch and Marshall. Standing, from left to right: Euwe, Yates, Tartakower, Spielmann, Réti, Mieses and Bogoljubow (Rubinstein, who also played, is not present).

172. The contestants at the legendary Karlsbad tournament of 1929—scene of Aron Nimzovich's most outstanding victory. Seated, first row, left to right: Menchik, Spielmann, Vidmar, Capablanca, Tietz (the patron), Bogoljubow, Nimzovich, Rubinstein and Maróczy. Standing, second row: P. Johner, Grünfeld, Euwe, Mattison, Thomas, Brinckmann, Sämisch and Gilg. Standing, third row: Yates, Tartakower, Marshall, Treybal, Canal, Becker and Colle.

This great tournament, one of the strongest held before World War II, developed into an exciting race between Spielmann, Nimzovich and Capablanca. Spielmann, who had been leading throughout, was finally dropped from first by a catastrophic loss to Nimzovich in the eighteenth round. He pulled himself together, however, and, making a supreme effort, crushed the mighty Capablanca in a beautifully played Queen's Gambit the next day. He and Nimzovich were tied going into the last round but, while Nimzovich heroically ground down Tartakower, Spielmann bungled a clear win against Mattison and had to settle for a tie with Capablanca for second and third. Even so, this was probably Spielmann's finest result, which he accomplished by consistently adopting, for the first time in his career, the move 1. P-Q4 with the white pieces. "The last knight of the King's Gambit" had finally been converted to the Queen's Gambit!

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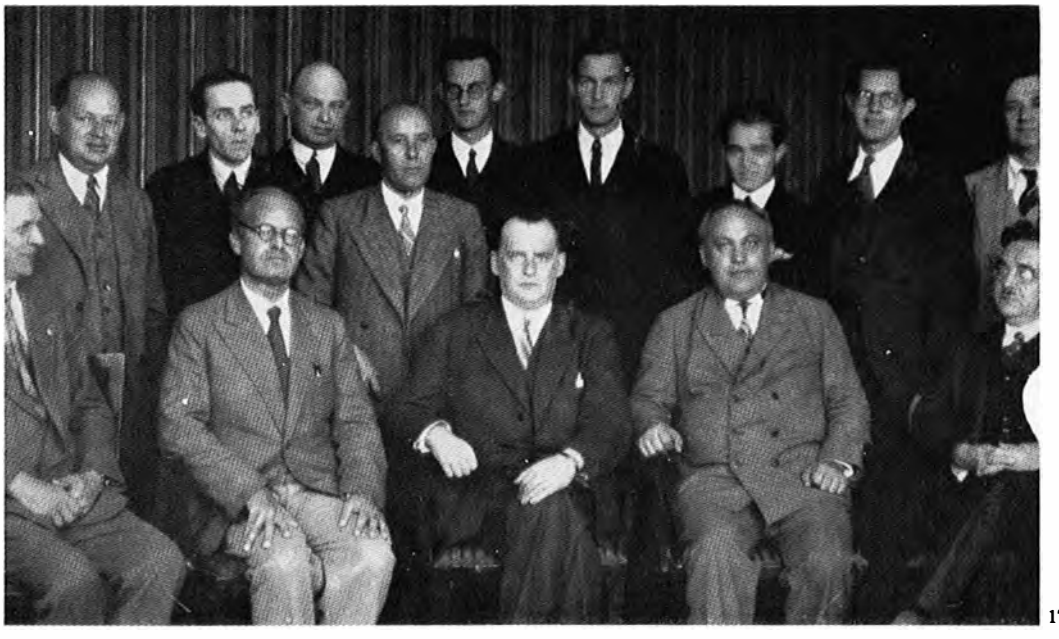

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173. The Indian grandmaster Sultan Khan at Hastings 1931-32.

Sultan Khan (1905-66), a native of the Indian district of Punjab, certainly had the strangest background of any modern grandmaster. Because of his prowess at chess he was made a member of the household staff of Sir Umar Hayat Khan, the provincial ruler who brought him to England in 1929. Sultan Khan astonished the chess world by winning the 1929 British championship ahead of such fine players as Yates and Winter. From 1929 until 1933 he had a brief but successful career, during which he twice more won the British championship (in 1932 and 1933) and generally did well in strong international tournaments (second at Liege 1930, behind Tartakower but ahead of Colle and Nimzovich, and tied for third and fourth with Kashdan at London 1932). He also won a tough match from Tartakower 6½-5½ in 1931, and narrowly lost to Flohr 3½-2½ in 1932. Sadly, Sultan Khan was a servant in the literal sense of the word, and when Sir Umar returned to India in 1933 Sultan Khan had to go with him. After he won a local match in 1935 nothing more was ever heard of Sultan Khan until 1966, when he reportedly died of tuberculosis in Pakistan. The most remarkable aspect of his career is that within only a matter of months he was able to master the rules of modern chess, and play consistently at a grandmaster level without having studied any written theory—for Sultan Khan was completely illiterate.

174. The players at the great double-round Bled (Yugoslavia) tournament of 1931. Seated, from left to right: Maróczy, Nimzovich, Alekhine, Bogoljubow and Vidmar. Standing, from left to right: Spielmann, Colle, Tartakower, Asztalos, Pirc, Stoltz, Flohr, Kashdan and Kostich.

During the years 1930 and 1931 Alekhine reached his absolute peak as a chess genius. At San Remo 1930 he won against a very powerful field with the score of 14 out of a possible 15 points, allowing only two draws to Bogoljubow and Spielmann. But at Bled 1931, against world's best (with the exception of the absent Capablanca) Alekhine won even more overwhelmingly, by scoring 20½ out of 28, no less than 5½ points ahead of his nearest rival Bogoljubow. Here again he did not lose a single game.

Marring these great victories is the unfortunate fact that from 1930 to 1935, when he lost his world title, Alekhine was able to intimidate tournament organizers against inviting Capablanca to events in which he wanted to play. Alekhine was still very much afraid of Capablanca and would demand a large "special appearance fee" from any tournament director who wanted to invite both to the same event.

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175. Vera Menchik (1906–44) was, with the possible exception of the women's world champion Nona Gaprindashvili, the strongest woman chess master of all time. Born in Moscow, in 1921 her family moved to England, where she studied with Maróczy and developed the solid, if somewhat placid, positional style which brought her many fine victories. In 1927 she won the first women's world championship with a score of 10½ out of 11. She retained the women's title until her death, easily defending it in four more tournaments and in two matches against the American Sonja Graf. Menchik was the first woman player to attain real master strength, and consequently the first ever to be invited to play in men's international tournaments, in several of which she scored well. Her finest successes were equal second with Rubinstein at Ramsgate 1929, half a point behind Capablanca but ahead of Marózcy and Koltanowski, and third at Maribor 1934, behind Pirc and L. Steiner but ahead of Spielmann and Rejfir. During this period there existed a humorous association called the "Menchik Club," This group (originally suggested by the Austrian master Becker—who the became its first member at Karlsbad 1929) consisted of masters who had lost to Miss Menchik. Among its best-known members were Euwe, Reshevsky, Colle, Sultan Khan, Yates, Alexander and Sir George Thomas. Tragically, in 1944 Vera Menchik was killed, while still in her prime, during a German air attack on London.

176. Carlos Torre (1904–78) was the best player Mexico ever produced. After finishing only tenth in his first international tournament (Baden-Baden 1925), he proceeded to show great promise by achieving a tie for third and fourth with Marshall at Marienbad 1925, behind Rubinstein and Nimzovich but ahead of such great players as Réti, Tartakower and Spielmann. Then at Moscow 1925 he attained a very honorable tie for fifth and sixth with Tartakower, and defeated Emanuel Lasker in a brilliant encounter. Unfortunately, after tying for second and third with Maróczy at the U.S. Open in Chicago in 1926, behind Marshall but ahead of a strong field which included Kupchik and Kashdan, Torre suffered a mental breakdown; although he eventually recovered he never again participated in class tournaments.

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177. An amusing and not too exaggerated view of chess, as perceived by advertising.

It is difficult to convey the intense concentration that goes into tournament chess, especially at the master level, although the really great players have been known to remain unruffled even under extraordinary circumstances. Bronstein, for instance, was attacked by a madman during the last round at the Saltsjobaden (Sweden) tournament of 1948. After the man was captured and taken away, Bronstein calmly proceeded to defeat Tartakower brilliantly and clinch first prize. During one of the games at the Fischer-Petrosian match at Buenos Aires in 1971, the lights suddenly went out for half an hour. Fischer, on the move, remained at the board, thinking in the dark. When Petrosian protested, Fischer even allowed the director to restart his clock (which had been stopped), and he stayed at the board thinking, with his time ticking away, all the while the lights were being repaired.

178. Aron Nimzovich (1886–1935) was one of the most radical and influential chess thinkers of the twentieth century. As a young master he was suspicious of the inelastic dogma propounded by the classical Tarrasch school, and he began to evolve an intensely personal concept of chess strategy. His approach was unique in that it centered around the idea of restricting an opponent's active possibilities before undertaking any aggressive operations. Where Steinitz was mainly concerned with proving that his favorite difficult and cramped defenses were merely viable, Nimzovich went him one revolutionary step further: he created defenses for black with which he could play for a win by saddling white with long-term strategical weaknesses which could be exploited in the endgame. He took the now accepted modern viewopint that it is frequently worthwhile to grant white a certain middle-game initiative and spacial advantage—if black compensates by having a basically sounder pawn structure. Nimzovich's two favorite defenses, the Nimzo-Indian (1. P-Q4, N-KB3; 2. P-QB4, P-K3; 3. N-QB3, *B-N5*) and the Nimzovich (sometimes called the Winawer) Variation of the French Defense (1. P-K4, P-K3; 2. P-Q4, P-Q4; 3. N-QB3, B-N5) are today extremely popular and consistently employed by the leading contemporary grandmasters. Nimzovich's two great books, *My System* and *The Praxis of My System*, have become timeless classics, indispensable to any serious student of chess.

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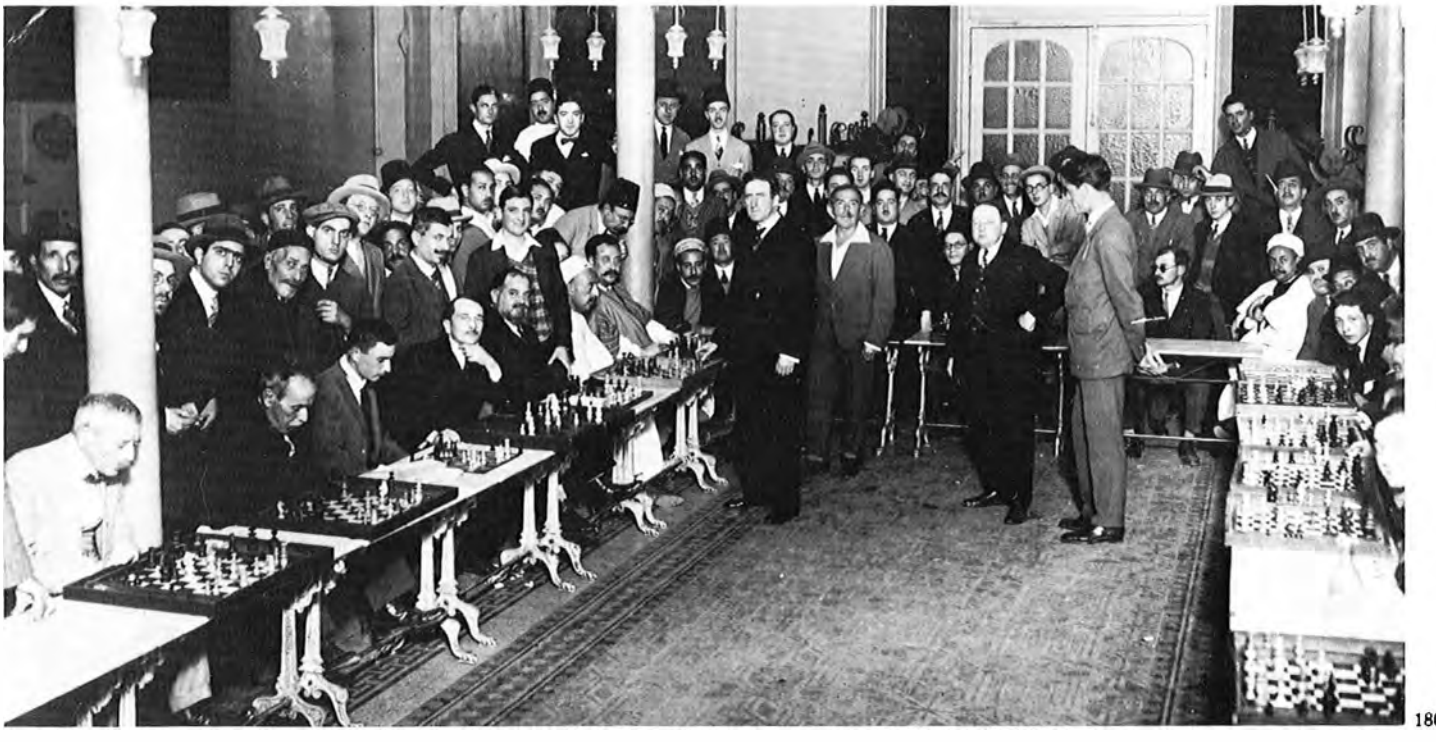

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179. Capablanca giving a simultaneous exhibition in Germany in 1928. His enormous worldwide popularity and great personal charm made him the finest ambassador to the general public the game has ever had.

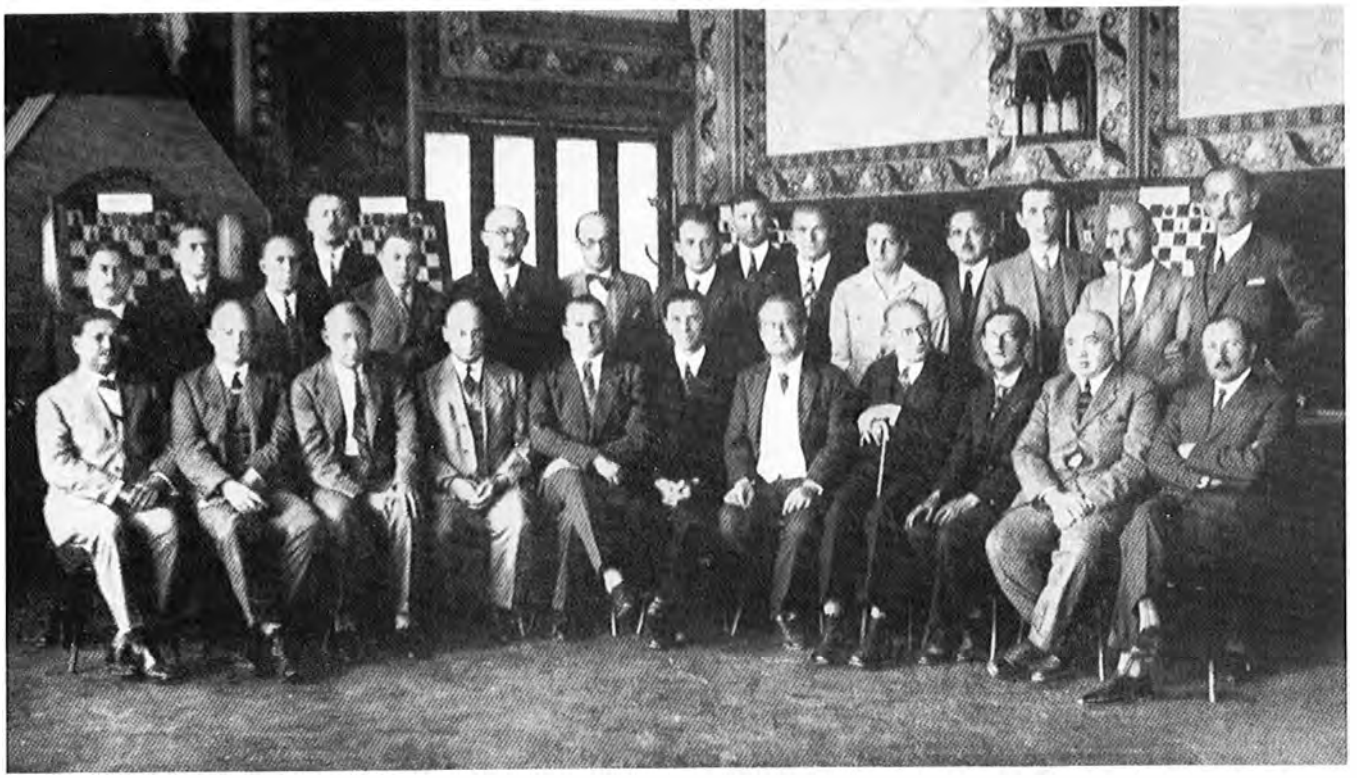
180. Marshall giving a simultaneous exhibition in Morocco, probably about 1930.

181

181. Richard Réti (1889-1929) was one of the founders of the "hypermodern" school of chess and one of the most influential and innovative openings theoreticians of the twentieth century. Following World War I a group of predominantly Eastern European masters, including Réti, Tartakower, Nimzovich, Grünfeld, Breyer and, to a lesser extent, Alekhine, began to question some of the classical school's fundamental precepts. While Nimzovich, Grünfeld and Alekhine were devising new defensive systems for black of which the basic idea was to tempt white into forming a large and vulnerable pawn center, Réti applied himself to developing openings systems for white with which he attempted to control key central squares while not commiting himself to a rigid pawn structure. The Réti opening thus devised usually begins with white playing the very elastic move 1. N-KB3, and using his bishops to apply diagonal pressure against black's center. Réti eludicated his exciting new ideas in two influential books, *Modern Ideas in Chess* and *Masters of the Chessboard.*

182. The participants at the very strong Kecskemét (Hungary) tournament of 1927. Alekhine's great victory in this event, without a single loss, was the climax of the impressive series of tournament triumphs he achieved during the 1920s. He had now become the logical challenger to Capablanca's throne, and indeed about this time the prescient Tartakower wrote: "Lasker is the ex-world champion, Capablanca is the present world champion, but Alekhine plays like a world champion should play!"

Seated, from left to right: Kiss, Brinckmann, Kmoch, Tartakower, Alekhine, Maróczy, Nimzovich, Grünfeld, Yates, Przepiorka and N. Toth. Standing: Gilg, Toth, L. Steiner, H. Muller, Ahues, Vuković, Chalupetzky and Zavory.



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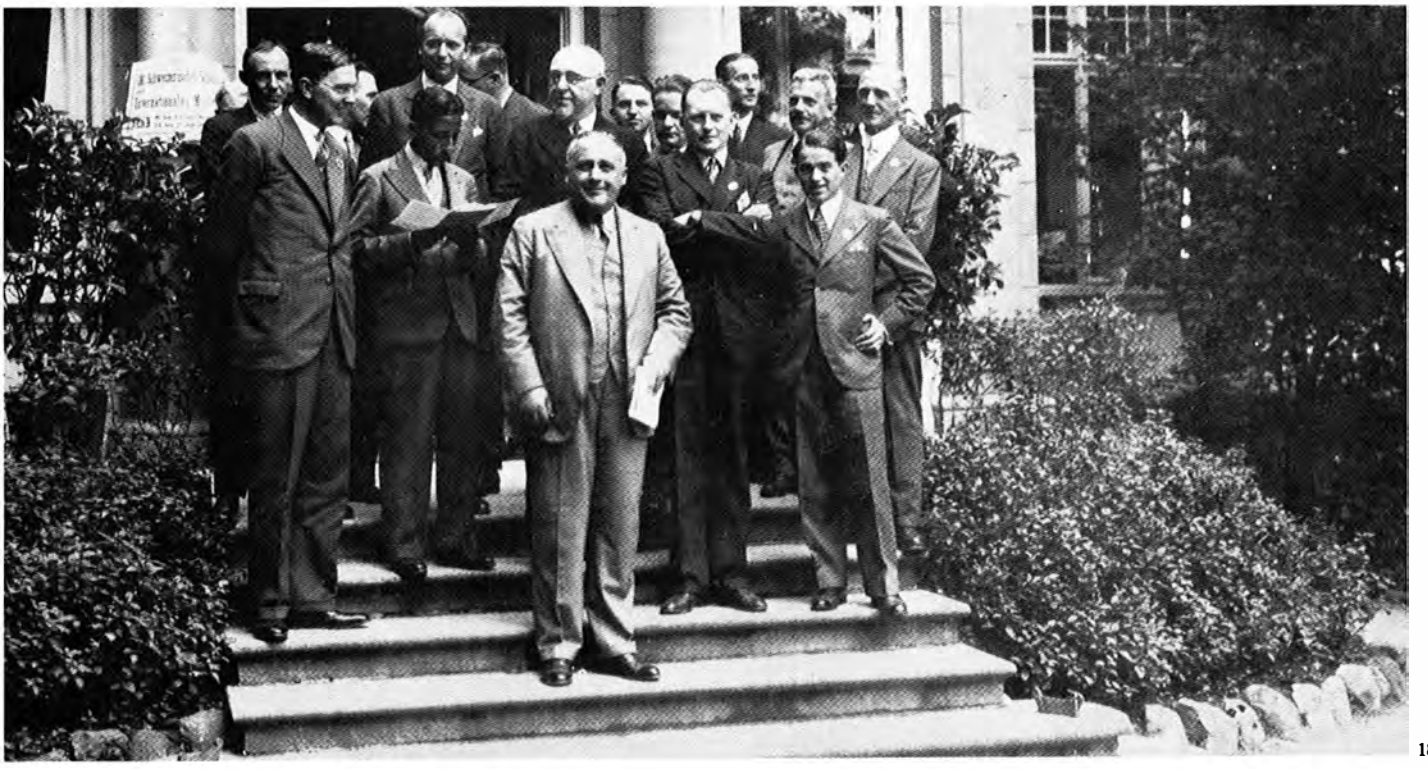

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183. The players at Bern 1932. Although his play was not so brilliant as during his peak years (1930–31), Alekhine still won impressively with the score of 12½ out of 16, a full point ahead of his younger rivals Euwe and Flohr, who tied for second and third. The six grandmasters in the foreground are, from left to right, Euwe, Sultan Khan, Bernstein, Bogoljubow, Alekhine and Flohr.

184. Play about to begin during a round of the Berliner Schachgesellschaft Centenary Jubilee Tournament of 1928. Among those present are Bogoljubow (at extreme left), Réti (in front of Bogoljubow at the next table), Nimzovich (in front of Réti at the next table) and Tartakower (seated at Nimzovich's left at the same table). After his fine victory here and his triumph at Karlsbad 1929, Nimzovich rightly felt that he had a valid claim to be the primary challenger for Alekhine's title. He even had cards printed which stated: "A. Nimzovich: Challenger for the World Championship in Chess." But he could not raise sufficient funds to tempt Alekhine into playing a man of nearly equal strength.

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185. Alekhine and Bogoljubow during their world championship match in 1934. This contest was really a sham, as Alekhine had already crushed Bogoljubow in a world title match in 1929 by the score of 11–5, with 9 draws. This time it was just as bad, Alekhine winning 8–3, with 15 draws.

A brilliant tactician, with several fine tournament successes to his credit, the ex-Russian and now naturalized German grandmaster Ewfim Bogoljubow (1889–1952) was in reality weaker than Capablanca, Nimzovich, and even the aging Lasker (against all of whom he had a poor record), but his willingness to play and find financial support gave Alekhine a pretext for avoiding matches with worthy opponents for the world title.

186. Alekhine ponders standing up while Euwe is on the move, during the second game of their world championship match in 1935. Euwe's surprising victory by the narrow margin of 9–8, with 13 draws, was the greatest upset in the history of the world chess championship.

187. Alekhine under fire during his 1935 world championship match against Max Euwe.

After 1932, although his results were still impressive, Alekhine's play became wilder, his creativity seemed dulled, and he made more serious mistakes. Worst of all, Alekhine began to drink. Subject to the pressure of being world champion, by 1935 he was obviously an alcoholic; he is even reported to have been clearly drunk during several games of the Euwe match. Apparently his early successes against young Euwe during the first third of the match (he was leading 6-3 after nine games) proved his final undoing. His drinking then increased to such an extent that his play during the second half of the match was almost unrecognizable and, although he sobered up sufficiently to make a last-ditch attempt to save his title during the final four games, where he scored 2½-1½, it was not enough. Max Euwe, himself probably more surprised than anyone, had won the world chess championship by one point, the final score being 15½-14½.

But Alekhine's drinking should not cast a shadow on Euwe's triumph, which was a very real one. His courage and tenacity, traits always in evidence during his long and magnificent career, prevented him from becoming discouraged by his poor start.

188. Alekhine and Euwe during three stages of the first game of their 1937 return match for the world championship. Although Euwe actually won this game, and started out reasonably well, he was now facing a reconditioned and revitalized Alekhine, who had at least temporarily given up drinking, and even smoking, in order to make a supreme effort to retrieve his lost title. In a very exciting contest, Alekhine, with a combination of sharp opening innovations and dazzling tactical mastery, became the first player to win back the world chess championship. After 13 games Alekhine had a two-point lead, to which he hung on grimly by saving several very unpleasant positions during the next eight. Euwe could only score one draw during the next five games, giving Alekhine the requisite 15½ points and victory.

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OM HET WERELDKAMPIOENSCHAP SCHAKEN

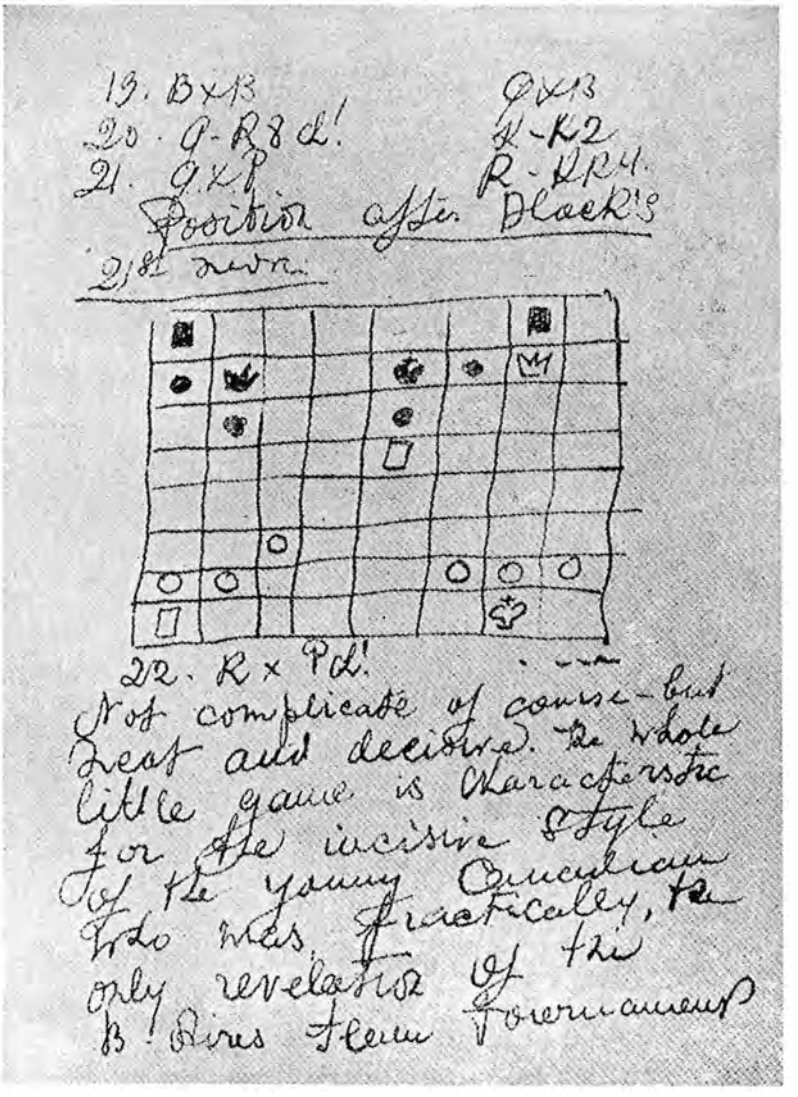
De spanning groeit;
De strijd gaat voort.

189. Two more views of the Alekhine-Euwe 1937 return match for the world championship. Reuben Fine, who was Euwe's second during this match, can be dimly seen in the background of the lower picture. Alekhine's second was the Austrian (now Argentinian) grandmaster Erich Eliskases, who later complained that Alekhine rarely consulted him about anything during the contest. Alekhine was the last great world champion, until Bobby Fischer, who did not want to depend on a second (or a team of seconds) to analyze adjourned games for him. Neither of these high-strung geniuses could bring himself to trust anyone else's judgment. Today, however, the practice of using at least one second during a match or an especially important tournament is widely established at the grandmaster level.

190. Dr. Max Euwe (1901–1981) of Holland was the most unexpected modern world champion. When he began his 1935 match with Alekhine he had not won first prize in a major tournament, although he had several impressive second places and over a half-dozen firsts in smaller events. His match record between 1920 and 1935, while sprinkled with victories against such relative "lightweights" as Colle, Landau, Davidson and Noteboom, was hardly encouraging in view of his negative results against such "heavyweights" as Bogoljubow (who beat him twice, 5½-4½ in 1928 and by the same score in 1929), Alekhine (who also won 5½-4½ in 1927) and Capablanca (who won 6-4 in 1931). However, even these results were remarkable, for throughout the 1920s Euwe was engaged in arduous university studies—he eventually became a professor of mathematics. But as time allowed, Euwe had been diligently strengthening his chess year by year so that by 1935 the once raw tactician was now a great strategist, openings theoretician, and strong endgame player. Euwe's best games are fine examples of harmonious chess logic; they uniformly reveal a correct master plan which is beautifully conceived and executed.

During World War II Euwe courageously refused to compete in Nazi-sponsored events and this resulting lack of serious practice was probably the main cause of the marked decline in his playing strength after the war. In 1946 he achieved his last impressive result by coming in second, behind Botvinnik, at the very powerful Groningen tournament. After finishing last in The Hague-Moscow 1948, and next to last at Zurich 1953, Euwe gradually retired from active play. In 1970 Euwe was elected president of the Federation Internationale Des Echecs (FIDE), the governing body of world chess, and during his tenure he displayed the same honesty, diligence and compassion that have always characterized his outstanding career.

Euwe is also a prolific author and has written several fine general treatises, including such modern classics as *Judgment and Planning in Chess*, *The Development of Chess Style*, *Meet the Masters*, *A Guide to Chess Endings* (with David Hooper), and many important works on opening theory.



191. A sample page from an Alekhine manuscript. Here he is annotating the game Yanofsky-Dulanto from the Buenos Aires Olympic team tournament of 1939—Alekhine correctly predicted a brilliant career for the then 14-year-old Daniel Yanofsky, who went on to become Canada's first grandmaster and has won the Canadian championship eight times.

There is no better description of Alekhine during his championship years than the following, excerpted from Reuben Fine's *Great Moments of Modern Chess*:

> Alekhine was our hero back in the early '30's . . . The victory over Capablanca had given the game an injection of badly needed vitality. We studied his games carefully, and knew many of them by heart. The collection of his best games, 1908–1923, was unequalled, and many of us learned from it what grandmaster chess really was like.
>
> When I first met him, at Pasadena in 1932, I began to understand the secret of his genius. He was showing a game with Euwe played at Berne a few months earlier, and his eyes and bearing had a strange intensity which I had never seen before. The man loved chess, it was the breath of life to him. At the bridge table he would suddenly start talking about an obscure variation in the Scotch; on the train to Mexico he assiduously devoted four hours a day to the analysis of new lines; any game, played by anybody anywhere, was good enough to sit him down and evolve new ideas for hours on end. He lived for chess, and chess alone.

192. Dr. Savielly G. Tartakower (1887-1956) was one of the most talented, adventurous, durable and witty professional chess masters of the twentieth century. In a career spanning almost 50 years Tartakower competed in nearly 120 international tournaments, many more than any other grandmaster of his generation, and was one of the most popular and entertaining chess journalists of his time. He never ceased striving for originality, especially in the openings, and while this led to many brilliancies he seemed to lack the discipline and seriousness necessary to win long tournaments. His career was marked by ups and downs, though from beginning to end he was a dangerous opponent, capable of beating anyone. Among his best achievements were first at Vienna 1923, ahead of Réti and Spielmann, first at Liege 1930, above Sultan Khan, Colle and Nimzovich, and, when he was 59, a remarkable first place at Hastings 1945/46, over Ekstrom, Euwe and Denker.

As an author Tartakower was responsible for some of the memorable chess literature of modern times. His best works are *Die Hypermoderne Schachpartie*, *500 Master Games of Chess* and *100 Master Games of Modern Chess*, both with J. DuMont, and the two-volume *My Best Games of Chess 1905-1930 & 1931-1954*.

Perhaps because he was a lifelong unsuccessful gambler at the casinos, Tartakower became a rather cynical man, his best chess humor had a truly sharp edge, and he coined many famous epigrams:

The player who wins is the one who makes the next-to-last mistake.
The mistakes are all there waiting to be made.
It is always better to sacrifice your opponent's men.
Sacrifices only prove that someone has blundered.

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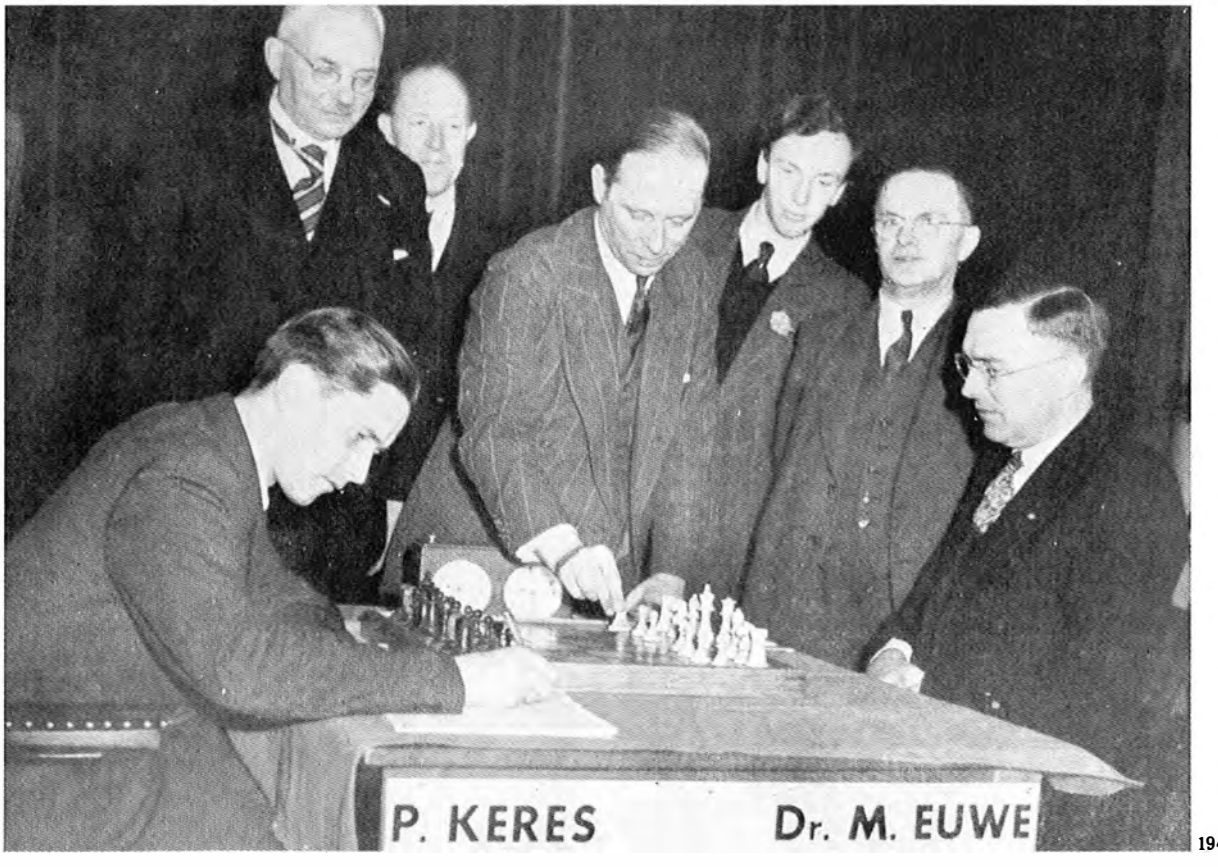

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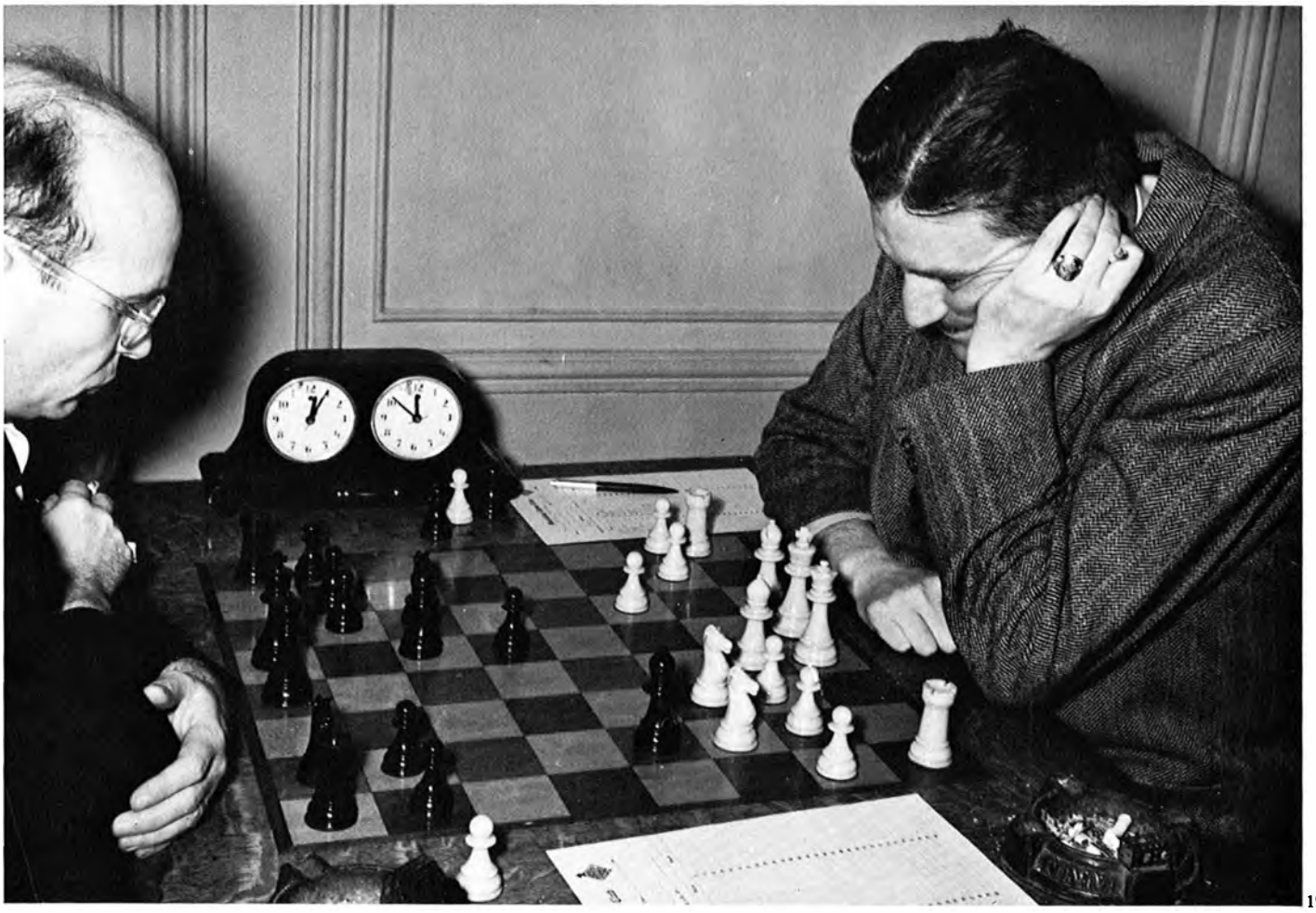
193. Flohr, Alekhine and Euwe at the great A.V.R.O. tournament of 1938 (the initials A.V.R.O. stand for Algemeene Vereeniging voor Radio Omroep, a Dutch radio corporation which sponsored the event). The surprising result was a tie for first between the two young stars Keres and Fine, ahead of Botvinnik, Alekhine, Euwe, Reshevsky, Capablanca and Flohr.

Salo Flohr (1908–), a Czechoslovakian grandmaster who emigrated to the Soviet Union after the Nazis invaded his homeland in 1938, had been designated the "official" world championship challenger in 1937, but FIDE was then unable to force Alekhine to undertake the match.

194. Keres versus Euwe at A.V.R.O. Although Keres and Fine tied for first, Keres was the winner by a tie-breaking point system, as he had beaten Fine in one of their individual games, the other being drawn.



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195. "Al" Horowitz (right) during one of his many battles with his lifelong friend and rival "Sammy" Reshevsky.

I. A. (Israel Albert) Horowitz (1907-73) was one of America's best-loved chess masters and writers. Besides his numerous books and columns in several periodicals, he was editor of *Chess Review*, the finest American chess periodical of its time, from its inception in 1933 to 1969, when it merged with *Chess Life* to form *Chess Life & Review*, now the official organ of the United States Chess Federation.

Horowitz won three U.S. Open Championships, but was most proud of his results on the American Olympic chess team during the 1930s, where he scored 9-4 as fourth board in 1931 at Prague, 12-3 as first reserve in 1935 at Warsaw, and a remarkable 13-2 as first reserve at Stockholm in 1937.

196. Herman Steiner (1905-55) was one of the few American masters who was able to make a living at chess during the lean years of the 1930s and 40s—beginning in 1931 he ran a successful chess club in Hollywood, which counted Jose Ferrer and Humphrey Bogart (not a bad player) among its members. Steiner was a resourceful player who excelled at finding counter-attacking chances in difficult positions. He won the U.S. Open Championship of 1946 and the U.S. Invitational Championship of 1948, and he was the one bright spot for the Americans during the famous 1945 radio match against the Soviet Union. While the U.S. team was massacred 15½-4½, Steiner was the only American to win his individual match, beating the Russian grandmaster Bondarevsky 1½-½.

197. The American grandmaster Isaac Kashdan with his children, around 1950.

Isaac Kashdan (1905-) was the first player of world-class grandmaster strength to develop in the United States after Frank Marshall. During the period 1928–33 Kashdan was the only American successfully competing abroad, and was occasionally spoken of as a world title contender. He won the prize for best score on first board (13-2) while representing America at the Olympiad in The Hague in 1928, finished second to Nimzovich at Frankfurt 1930, first (above Bogoljubow and Stoltz) at Stockholm 1930, fourth at Bled 1931, and second (behind Alekhine but above Reshevsky and Dake) at Pasadena 1932. He was a gifted positional player who had a notorious fondness for gaining the two bishops. Kashdan's ability to extract victories from seemingly even positions earned him, in Europe, the nickname "der kleine Capablanca" (the little Capablanca). However, during the Depression years Kashdan found he could not support himself and his family solely through chess, and found it necessary to devote less time to the game and more to his professional work as an insurance agent. Although he tied for first with Reshevsky at the U.S. championship of 1942, he lost the playoff match 6-2, with 3 draws. The inevitable effect of infrequent practice on his play led Kashdan to retire from active competition during the early 1950s. He has, however, remained involved in chess as a tournament organizer and director, and has for many years been the chess editor of the *Los Angeles Times*.

198. Fine (left) and Denker during their game at New York 1948/49. Fine won this strong event with the excellent score of 8 out of 9, allowing only two draws, well ahead of his chief rivals Najdorf and Euwe. Fine only played in one more tournament after this, finishing a relatively poor fourth behind Reshevsky, Euwe and Najdorf at New York 1951. He then abandoned chess almost entirely, except for occasional writing, in favor of psychoanalysis, which is now his life's work.

Arnold Denker (1914–) was one of the strongest American masters during the 1940s. He was a happy-go-lucky player who played chess for fun, and always sought sharp, wide-open positions where he could rely on his exceptional combinational ability. His most impressive achievement was winning the 1944 U.S. championship with the fabulous score of 15½ out of 17, a full point above Fine, whom he defeated brilliantly in a now-famous 25-move miniature.

Ironically, in the above photograph, Fine is playing the same opening, the Nimzo-Indian Defense, with which he lost so horribly to Denker in 1944. This time around Denker varied very early on from their previous game, and was himself completely routed in only 28 moves.

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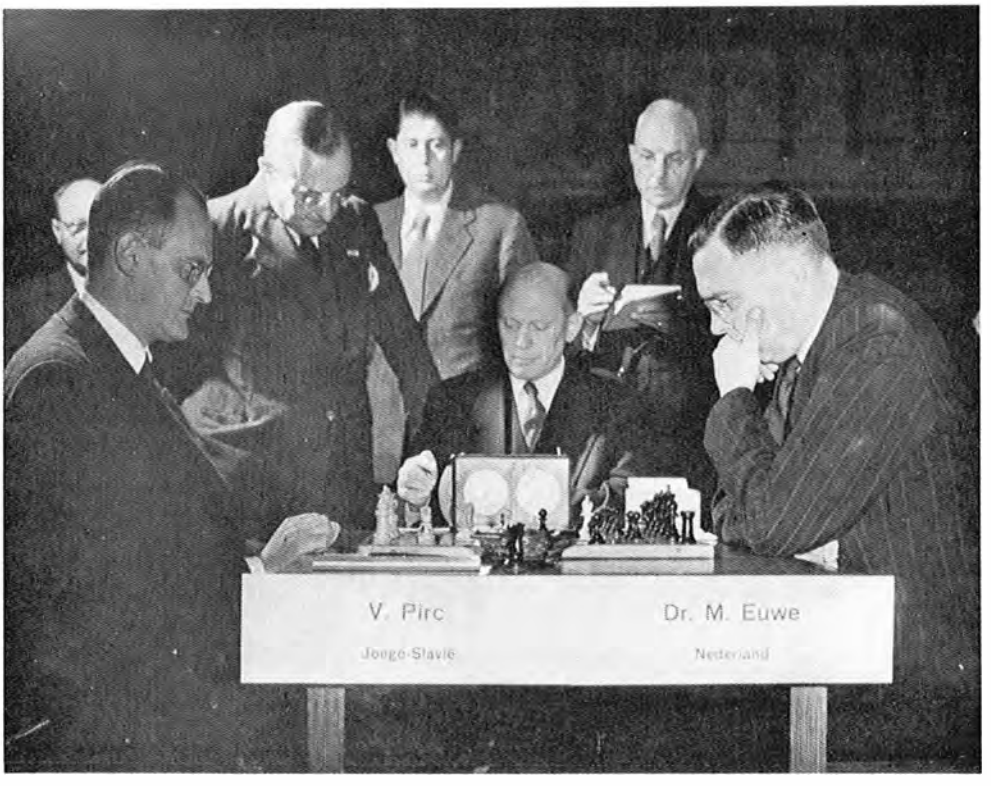

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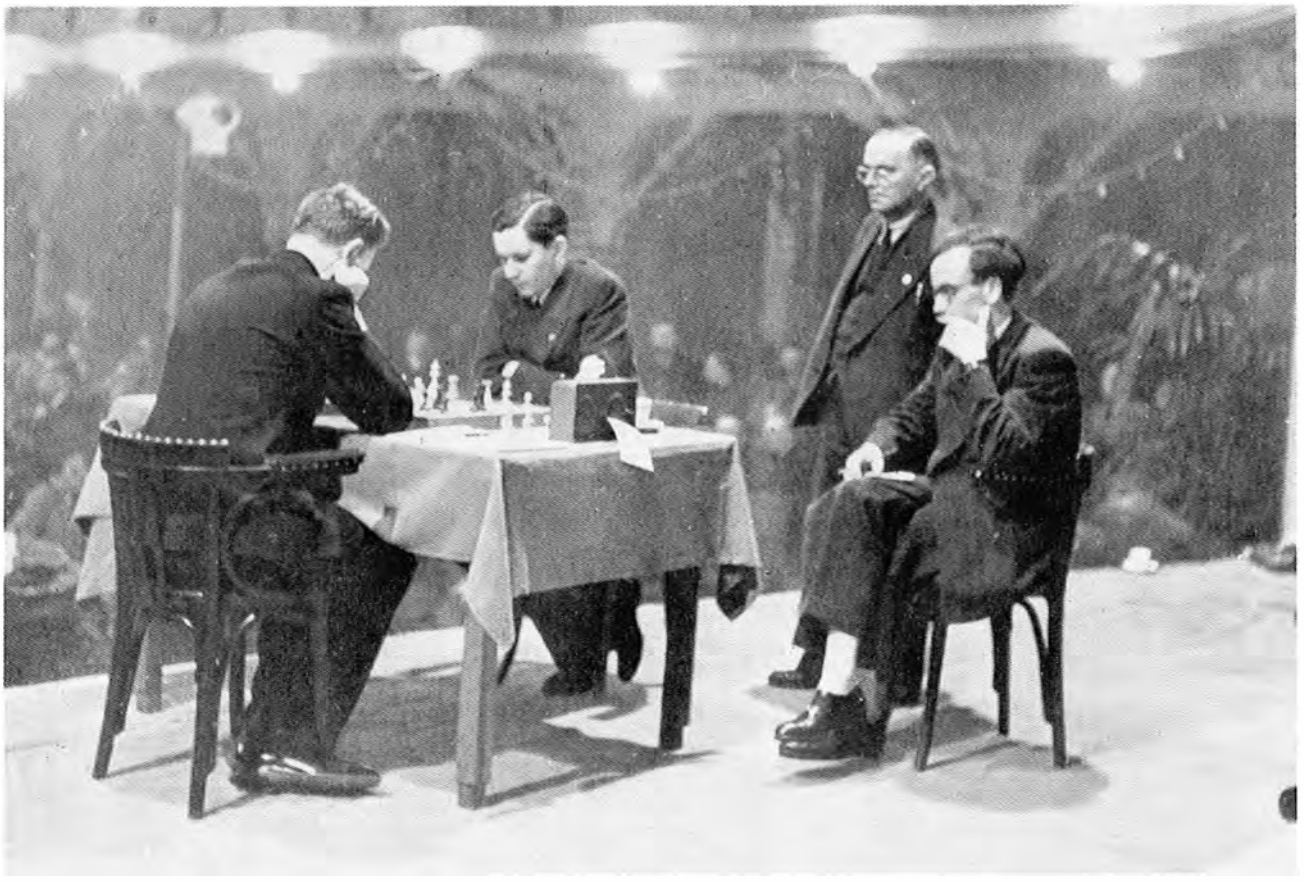
199. Young Pomar vs. the veteran grandmaster Bernstein at London 1946.

Arturo Pomar (1931-), a child prodigy, created a sensation when he drew a well-played game against Alekhine in 1944. He won the Spanish championship in 1946 while only 15 and went on to become a professional grandmaster.

Ossip Bernstein (1882–1962) was one of the top tournament players in the decade before World War I and achieved, among several noteworthy results, an equal first with Rubinstein at the great Barmen tournament of 1905. After the war he virtually retired from chess for a successful career in international finance. He began to play again occasionally after World War II and even finished second at a strong tournament in Montevideo in 1954.

200. Pirc vs. Euwe at Amsterdam 1950.

Vasja Pirc (1907–1981), one of the leading Yugoslav players during the 1930s and 40s, is best known today for his espousal of the Pirc Defense (1. P–K4, P–Q3; 2. P–Q4, N–KB3; 3. N–QB3, P–KN3), a difficult opening now popular with many young players.



201. Smyslov vs. Keres during the world championship tournament, The Hague/Moscow, 1948.

After Alekhine's death in 1946 it was resolved that the vacant world championship would be awarded to the winner of a match tournament involving only those players generally recognized as the world's best. Euwe, Botvinnik, Keres, Smyslov, Reshevsky and Fine were invited, but at the last minute Fine declined to participate; it was then agreed among the remaining five players that they would contest five games against each other, rather than four as had been planned for the original six-player event. Botvinnik, the favorite, won the title in fine style with a clear three-point gap separating him from his closest competitor Smyslov. Keres and Reshevsky finished one-half point behind Smyslov, tying for third and fourth, above Euwe who came last with the dismal score of 4 points out of 20.

In this photograph the man standing is the referee, Dr. Milan Vidmar (1885-1962), who was Yugoslavia's first great player and one of the world's leading grandmasters during the years 1910-35. Vidmar, like Euwe and Botvinnik, was one of the last great masters to combine two careers, for he was also a professor of electrical engineering. Although only able to compete sporadically, Vidmar consistently achieved good results—equal second with Rubinstein (behind Capablanca) at San Sebastian 1911 and equal first with Flohr at Bad Sliac 1932. In 1961 he published a wonderful memoir of his experiences during the classical era entitled *Goldene Schachzeiten*.

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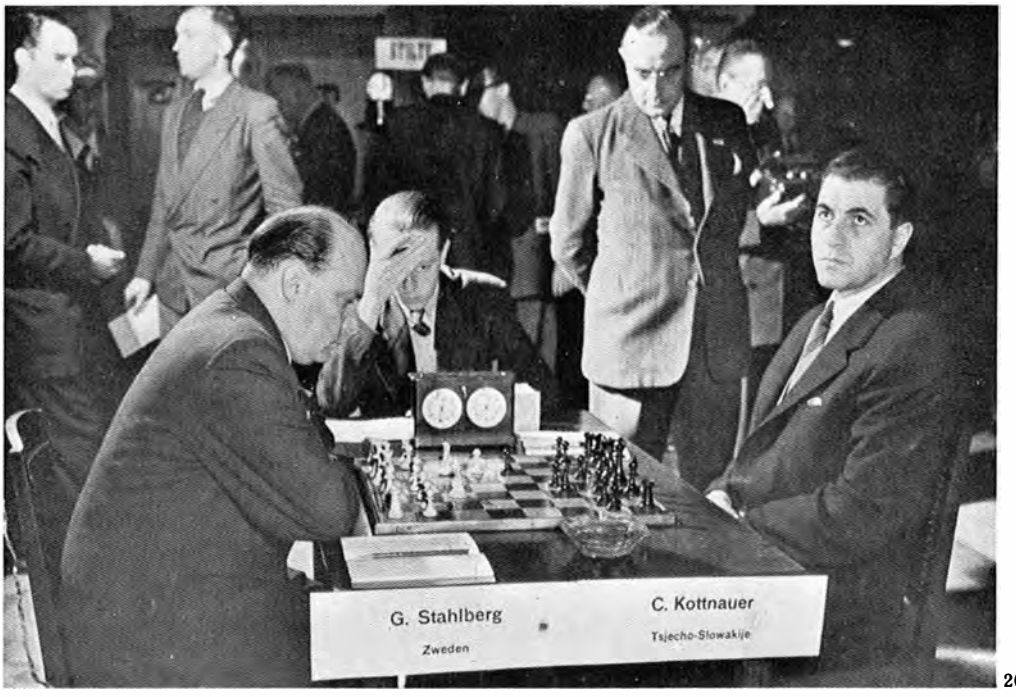
202. Reshevsky (left) vs. Botvinnik during the first round of the 1955 match in Moscow between the United States and the Soviet Union. Although the Americans had put up a strong fight in a similar match held the year before in New York, losing 20–12, this time they were slaughtered by the Russians 25–7. Reshevsky did, however, reinforce his position as the then leading Western player by winning his personal match against Botvinnik $2\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$.

203. Some of the contestants at the very strong 20-player Amsterdam tournament of 1950, won by Najdorf ahead of Reshevsky and Stahlberg. First row, left to right: Gligorić, Rossolimo and Pilnik. Second row: Tartakower, Najdorf and Van Scheltinga. Third row: Reshevsky, Prins (who did not play), Gudmundsson, Trifunović and Stahlberg.



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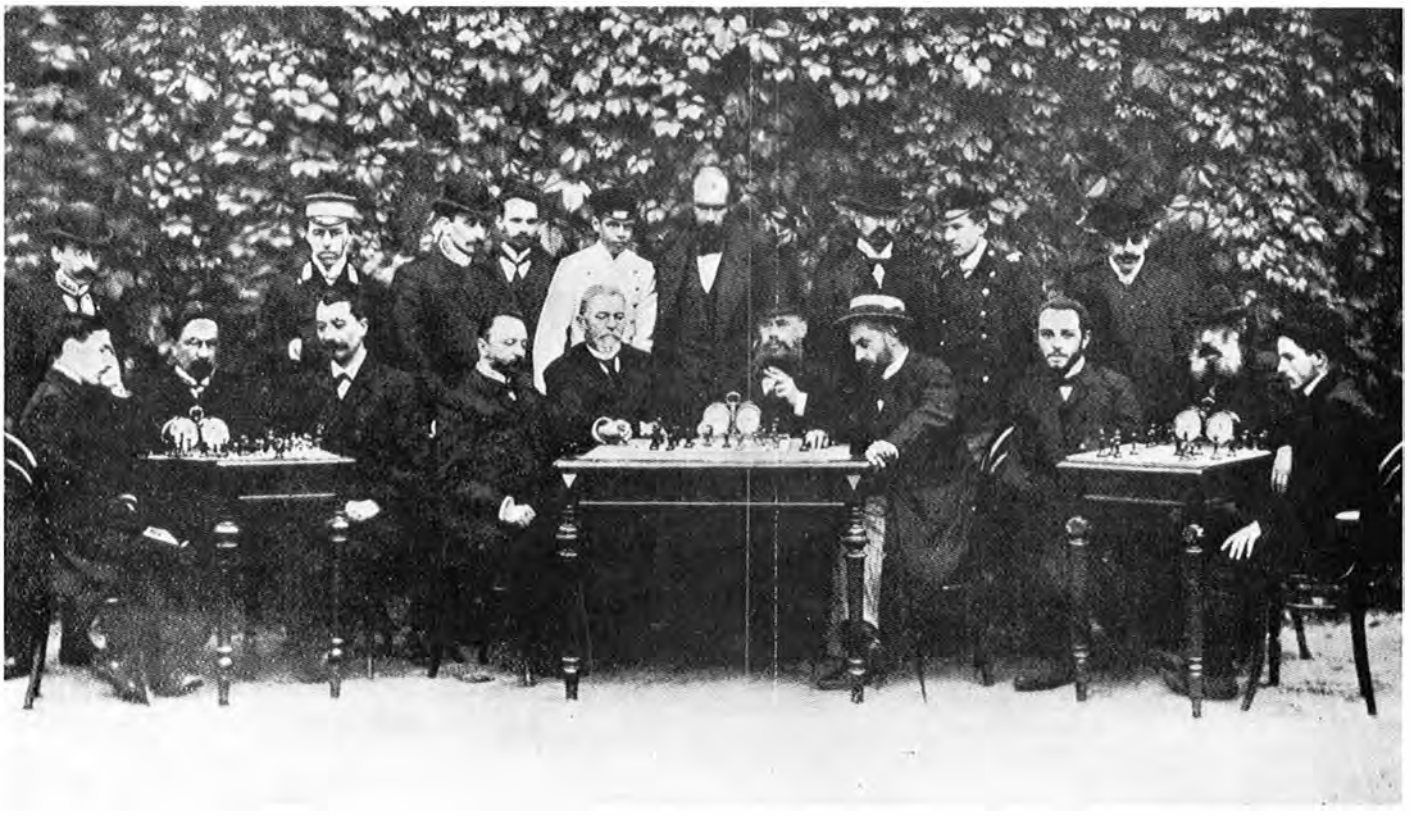
204. Stahlberg vs. Kottnauer at Amsterdam 1950.

Gideon Stahlberg (1908-67), the strongest player ever born in Sweden, was one of the world's leading grandmasters for over 20 years. When the war broke out in 1939 he was playing at the chess Olympiad in Buenos Aires, and he remained in Argentina; for the next nine years either he or Najdorf took first or second prize in virtually every important tournament held in South America. A fine match player, Stahlberg defeated Spielmann 4-2 in 1933, Nimzovich 5-3 in 1934, and drew with Keres 3-3 in 1938.

Cenek Kottnauer (1910-), a strong international master originally from Czechslovakia, sought political asylum in Switzerland in 1953, and eventually settled in England, where he has since become a naturalized citizen.

205. Reshevsky vs. Najdorf (facing camera) at Amsterdam 1950.

Najdorf's victory here, coupled with many other fine results, raised doubts as to whether Reshevsky at this time really was the leading player in the West. This was decisively cleared up when Reshevsky overwhelmed Najdorf in a match for the so-called "Championship of the Western World" by the score of 9½-5½ in 1952. Reshevsky defeated his chief rival in a return match the following year, 9½-8½, and thus settled the question once and for all.



206. The participants at the third Russian national chess tournament, Kiev 1903. Seated at the left are Rubinstein, an unidentified player, Salwe and Tchigorin; seated at the table at the far right are Bernstein, Schiffers and Dus-Chotimirsky. Among those standing is, fourth from the left, young Eugene Znosko-Borovsky, who went on to become a well-known chess author.

It is appropriate to begin a section on Soviet chess with this rare view of Tchigorin at his last victory in a Russian championship; he was primarily responsible for popularizing chess throughout the tsarist empire and is still idolized in the Soviet Union. Why, however, chess under Soviet rule has become so incredibly popular as to make the USSR the dominant force in the chess world today is difficult to explain. Several high-ranking members of the fledgling Bolshevik government, including A. F. Ilyin-Zhenevsky 1894–1941), who was a strong master, and N. V. Krylenko (1885–1938), an ardent chess enthusiast who was once Commissar for War and later Commissar of Justice, used every opportunity to encourage chess through cultural and educational programs. They believed that chess improved literacy, logical thinking and patience, and was an antidote to such counterproductive pastimes as gambling and drinking.

207. Levenfish (left) vs. Botvinnik during their unusually hard-fought special match for the 1937 Soviet championship, which ended in a draw.

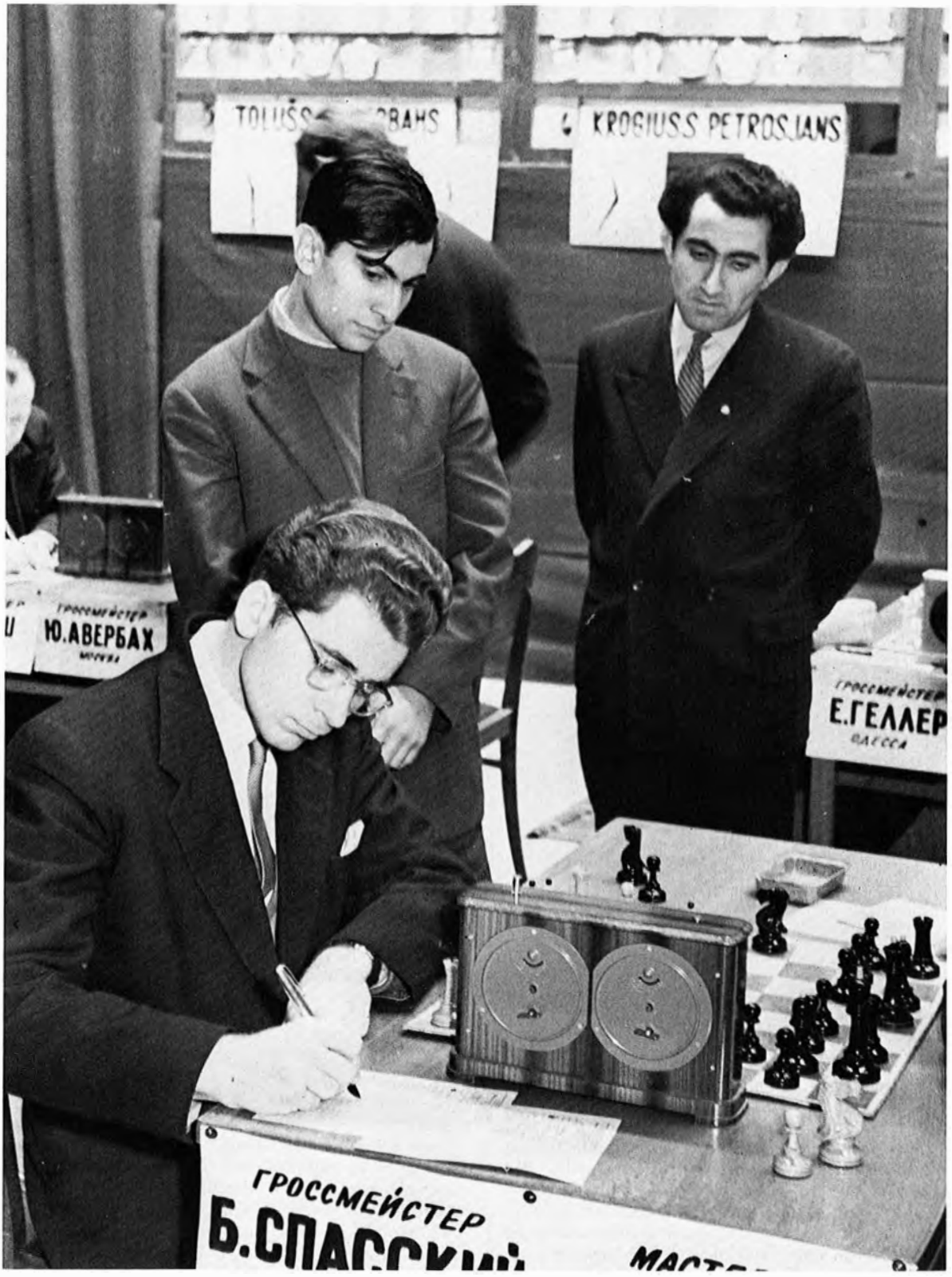
Gregory Levenfish (1889–1961) was the strongest pre-Soviet Russian grandmaster *not* to leave his homeland in the early, difficult years of the Bolshevik regime. Always a successful tournament player, he was bitterly disappointed when, even though he had won both the ninth and tenth Soviet championships (in which Botvinnik did not compete) and had retained his national title in a match with his younger rival, the Soviet chess federation still decided to send Botvinnik as their representative to the 1938 A.V.R.O. tournament. This harshly pragmatic decision caused Levenfish to lose interest in his playing career, but he continued to have an important impact on the growth of Soviet chess through his writing and work in training talented young Leningrad players.

Mikhail Moiseivich Botvinnik (1911-) was the first Soviet-educated man to become a grandmaster and, later, world chess champion. A man of many talents, Botvinnik is not only a great chess player but also an accomplished electrical engineer. It is often overlooked that he was the *first* exponent of Soviet culture to achieve international recognition and acclaim. He won the U.S.S.R. championship six of the eight time he played, in 1931, 1933, 1939, 1941, 1945 and 1952—a still unequaled record. His international results were also consistent: equal first with Flohr at Moscow 1935, second behind Capablanca at Moscow 1936, equal first with Capablanca at Nottingham 1936, third at A.V.R.O. 1938, and first at Groningen 1946 and Moscow 1947. Perhaps most amazing of all was the length of his tenure as world champion: nearly 14 years (1948–63), with brief gaps in 1957 and 1960 when he temporarily lost his title to Smyslov and Tal, respectively. After each of these defeats it was thought he would retire, especially since his scientific work now occupied much more of his time and energy. But, aided by his magnificent gift for self-analysis and improvement, Botvinnik both times claimed his right for a return match within a year, and both times he defeated his young, overconfident conqueror. After he was finally dethroned by Petrosian in 1963, Botvinnik refused to participate in the next series of candidates matches in protest against FIDE's 1961 decision to rescind the return-match option. He continued to compete successfully in international tournaments until 1970, when after some poor results he retired from active play.

208. Botvinnik giving a simultaneous exhibition on 15 boards at the Palace of Pioneers in Leningrad, 1950. Botvinnik's didactic approach to chess instruction, with its emphasis on systematic study of all aspects of the game and careful preparation against each and every opponent, greatly influenced future generations of Soviet players.

209. First Botvinnik and then Tal take a stroll to relieve the tension during their 1961 return match for the world championship. Botvinnik is the only player to lose and win back the title twice.

Botvinnik was in many ways the founder of the modern "scientific school" of chess thought, exemplified today by the present champion Anatoly Karpov. It is characterized by extensive preparation, a thoroughly analyzed (though not necessarily large) openings repertoire, a very high level of endgame technique, and a logical strategic approach to the game in general which is aided, at least in the top players, by great daring and imagination. Botvinnik's play as champion epitomized these traits. Although a fine tactician like all the world champions, Botvinnik's play was especially noted for its grand strategical designs and superb endgame technique. A prolific author, his works are famous for the severely objective and profound scrutiny to which he submits the play of both himself and others. His total achievement in the art of chess is second to none.



210. A prophetic photo: young Tal and Petrosian watching Spassky record his move at the twenty-fifth Soviet championship at Riga in 1958. Each, in turn, was to become world champion.

211. Alexander Kotov (1913–1981) at the Moscow-Prague match of 1946, where he helped the Soviet team swamp the Czechs 51½–20½. As a young player Kotov roused a sensation when he barely lost the 1938 Soviet championship to Botvinnik.

Primarily a tactician, Kotov was an erratic player, but could at times literally overrun all opposition. He had devoted most of the last 20 years to chess organizing and writing, though some of his literary work is marred by excessive Soviet propaganda. However, his *Think Like a Grandmaster* (1969) is certain to become a classic; it describes how a player without extraordinary talent can achieve master strength through systematic and diligent study.

212. David Bronstein (1924-) is the poet of modern chess. Throughout his wonderful career his games have displayed such unbridled creativity, fantasy, and tactical ingenuity as to make him one of the most popular living grandmasters. He is a modern "seeker after truth," a dedicated artist who has showered the literature of recorded chess games with his magnificent conceptions. As an author he is profound, witty, ironic—never dry or dogmatic. His book on the Zurich candidates tournament of 1953 (where he finished equal second with Keres and Reshevsky, behind Smyslov) is internationally recognized as one of the greatest masterpieces of its kind, and his recent *200 Open Games* (1974) is one of the most entertaining and provocative chess books in recent years.

Bronstein rocketed to fame with several remarkable results during the late 1940s: equal first in the Soviet championships of 1948 and 1949, first at Saltsjöbaden 1948. He was the leading overall scorer on the various Soviet teams which demolished the Americans, British, Czechs and Hungarians during this period. In 1950, at the Budapest candidates tournament, his dramatic "do or die" victory over Keres in the last round enabled him to tie for first with Boleslavsky—whom he then beat in a very close playoff match, thus earning the right to challenge Botvinnik. Although finally drawn, the Botvinnik-Bronstein world championship fight was one of the most exciting ever—a real battle with Botvinnik only narrowly staving off defeat by winning a marathon positional battle in the twenty-third, and next-to-last, game. Bronstein has since not been able to become the challenger again, having often come close but then failing to achieve a deserved victory in a crucial game. He is now more prone to time pressure—someone once facetiously remarked that he is now perhaps a "pawn or two" weaker than in his prime—but he remains, as ever, a very tough competitor, from whom his opponents have now come to always expect the unexpected!

213. Mikhail Tal (1936-) at the scene of his greatest triumph, the Bled (Yugoslavia) tournament of 1959, which he won with the fantastic score of 20 out of 28, 1½ points ahead of runner-up Keres. Even though he lost his individual series against Keres 3-1, Tal's amazing score of 14½ out of 16 against the bottom half (Fischer, Gligoric, Olafsson and Benko) carried him to an easy victory.

During the second half of the 1950s—a period deeply influenced by the logically achieved successes of Botvinnik and Smyslov—Tal suddenly appeared, always attacking, sacrificing, forcing dangerous and obscure complications, and most often, to the dismay and confusion of his colleagues, winning. (Taimanov declared bitterly after Tal had won his first U.S.S.R. championship in 1957 that if such a reckless player should win the title again he would give up chess—a promise he conveniently forgot when Tal also won the following year.) But it was not magic. Tal was simply young, fearless, and blessed with an extraordinary tactical imagination; he naturally strove for uncertain, extremely complex positions where only correct intuition, and not mere calculation, would suffice. Tal wanted the initiative so badly that occasionally he would go to unsound sacrificial lengths to maintain it, but during his peak years, his opponents, being unused to and secretly afraid of such incredibly bold play, usually succumbed. Even Botvinnik was toppled from his throne (6-2, 13 draws), and on May 7, 1960, Mikhail Tal became at 23 the youngest world champion in the history of chess.

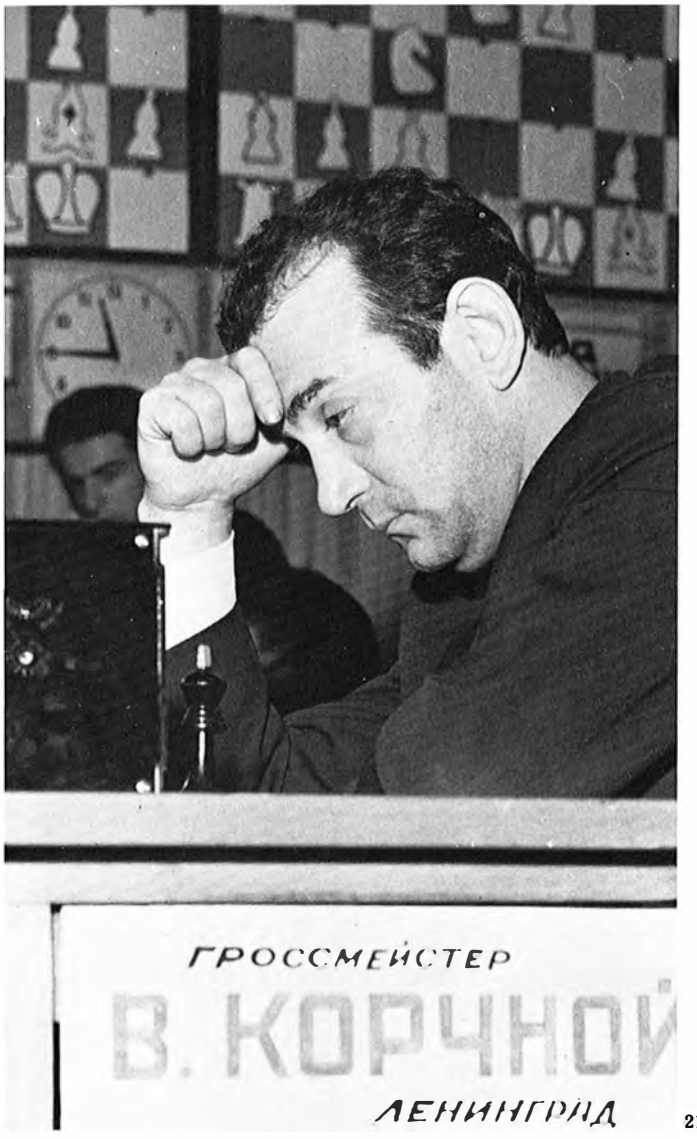
214. Tal at the thirty-ninth U.S.S.R. championship in 1971, where he finished equal second with Smyslov, behind the erratic, albeit highly talented, Vladimir Savon.

Botvinnik regained "his" title from Tal by the score of 10–5, with 6 draws in 1961. Like Smyslov before him, Tal had seriously underestimated Botvinnik's recuperative powers. Tal was especially ill-prepared in the openings and often allowed Botvinnik to steer the play into strategically clear channels; in addition, Tal's health had become variable because of a severe kidney problem and he occasionally appeared more fatigued than his rival, who was twice Tal's age. But, perhaps more than anything else, it was Tal's youthful optimism which brought about his downfall.

After losing the championship the irregular state of Tal's health brought him uneven results. However, in 1972 Tal returned to his old form and won, in a seven-month period, five consecutive major tournaments, losing only once in 82 games. But, whether from fickle health or nervous overexertion, Tal failed badly at Leningrad 1973 and did not qualify for the 1974 candidates matches. But Tal still plays, his health seems now more stable, and he is still the most feared attacking player active today.

215. Victor Korchnoi (1931-) has been one of the world's leading players for over 20 years, winning the extremely tough U.S.S.R. championship on four different occasions, and having the best overall record in international tournament competition of any Soviet grandmaster during the last decade. He has been a strong contender for the world championship since 1962, when he finished fifth at the Curaçao challengers tournament, and has come close three more times: in 1968 after defeating both Reshevsky and Tal he lost a grueling final match to Spassky; in 1970 he lost the semi-final to Petrosian only in the last game; in 1974 he lost what was in effect a world title match, being beaten by Karpov by the narrowest of margins, 3-2, with 19 draws.

Korchnoi, who defected to Holland in 1976, is universally acknowledged as one of the most relentless fighters in chess today. Whether or not the fact that he has now entered middle age will hinder his further attempts at achieving the world championship, only time will tell.



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216. Korchnoi at Kiev in 1965, where he won the Soviet championship for the third time.

Korchnoi is generally considered to be the hardest worker over the board among contemporary grandmasters. While he usually avoids the direct attacking approach of Fischer or Tal (Korchnoi almost never plays 1. P–K4), he excels at creating and maintaining highly complex middle-game positions where his awesome tactical genius can bear fruit. He is certainly the greatest counterattacking player since Emanuel Lasker. Ironically, the major criticism that has been directed at Korchnoi is that he sometimes tries too hard. In his unyielding determination to avoid a draw he has occasionally overreached himself and lost. Still, it is this very ferocity which has brought Korchnoi close to the summit of the chess world—he was ranked third leading player, after Fischer and Karpov, in 1975—and he may yet reach the peak.

217. Spassky (left) playing Botvinnik in September 1966, during the annual Soviet team championships. Botvinnik, playing his then favorite Caro-Kann Defense, stood slightly worse in the middle game, but succeeded in outplaying and beating the young future world champion.

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218. Paul Keres (1916–75), whose sudden death, following two fine tournament victories at Tallinn, Estonia (ahead of Spassky) and Vancouver (ahead of the American champion Walter Browne), came as a great shock to the world of chess. He was the most widely admired and respected professional grandmaster of this era and certainly the strongest player in modern times who did not succeed in becoming world champion.

Keres was the most consistently successful tournament player ever. As chess historian Dale Brandreth recently noted, Keres won more international tournaments than any player who ever lived. In addition, he defeated at least once, and usually several times, all the world champions from Capablanca to Fischer. Keres participated eight times in candidates events held to determine a world title challenger, more times than anyone else, and had the heartbreaking misfortune of coming in second in four of them (at Zurich 1953, Amsterdam 1956, Bled 1959 and Curaçao 1962). He also won the U.S.S.R. championship three times (in 1947, 1950 and 1951), and played in ten international chess Olympiads, from 1935 to 1964, achieving an amazing overall winning percentage of nearly 80%.

Throughout his magnificent 40 year career Keres, unlike many of today's younger grandmasters, maintained a remarkable equilibrium, accepting victory or defeat with equal grace. He is sorely missed.

219. Yefim Geller (1925-) has been one of the steadiest Soviet grandmasters over the last 20 years, being consistently ranked among the top ten players in the world. With his forthright style and wide-open attacking play, Geller is, according to Botvinnik, the most creative openings theoretician of all the Russian grandmasters, having again and again successfully introduced improvements in well-established variations. Geller is particularly successful in tournaments; his pugnacious style, which produces many sharp, dazzling victories, usually compensates for occasional upsets.

In match play, however, Geller has been less successful, his particular *bête noire* being Spassky, who beat him by identical scores of 5½-2½ in both the semi-final candidates matches of 1965 and the quarter final of 1968. After failing to qualify for the 1973 candidates competition, Geller suffered some mediocre results. But he bounced back in 1975, by winning outright both the very strong Alexander memorial (Middlesbrough, England) and Alekhine memorial (Moscow) tournaments, ahead of, respectively, former world champions Smyslov and Spassky. Whether Geller is still a viable candidate for the world championship, having now entered his fifth decade, remains to be seen.

220. Petrosian (left) recording Spassky's move during their second world championship match in April 1969. Standing is the chief umpire, the Belgian grandmaster Alberic O'Kelly de Galway (1911–1980).

In their first match for the world title in 1966, Spassky underestimated the world champion and lost 12½–11½. This time, however, Spassky was much better prepared, especially in the openings where his continually successful adoption of the supposedly inferior Tarrasch Defense to the Queen's Gambit (1. P-Q4, P-Q4; 2. P-QB4, P-K3; 3. N-QB3, *P-QB4*) completely neutralized Petrosian's play with the white pieces. Tied after 16 games, Spassky, displaying greater stamina and nerves, pulled decisively ahead with crushing victories in games 17 and 19 and won the match 12½–10½.

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221. Taimanov (left) vs. Kholmov at the Soviet championship in Leningrad, 1963.

Ratmir Kholmov (1925–), a strong grandmaster, here achieved his best result in U.S.S.R. championships, finishing in a three-way tie for first, although he came in last in the brief playoff match behind Stein and Spassky.

Mark Taimanov (1926–), one of Russia's leading grandmasters, has contributed a great deal to the evolution of several major openings systems. His successful revival of an old variation of the Sicilian Defense (1. P-K4, P-QB4; 2. N-KB3, N-QB3; 3. P-Q4, PxP; 4. NxP, *P-K3*) has created a viable and exciting new offensive weapon for black, and this line is now universally known as the Taimanov System. Taimanov's second serious profession as a concert pianist makes him unique among today's grandmasters.

222. Keres (left) vs. Boleslavsky at the Soviet championship in Moscow, 1957.

Isaac Boleslavsky (1919–78) was one of the most promising young Russian grandmasters to come into prominence after World War II. A very sharp player, with a rare gift for creating correct combinational attacks, Boleslavsky was also a dynamic openings innovator and did much to restore into common master practice the Sicilian and King's Indian Defenses. Only a narrow defeat by Bronstein in the playoff match following the 1950 Budapest candidates tournament prevented him from challenging Botvinnik for the world title.

223. Tigran Petrosian (1929-) is the most unique player, in terms of personal style, since Nimzovich. He is a positional player of genius who excels at "squeezing" his opponents to death, aided by his uncanny ability to post his pieces so effectively that attacks against his position will usually come to nothing. Using this negative, even passive, style, which requires great patience and diligence, Petrosian must accept many draws, but he will rarely lose. Although criticized for his cautious approach, Petrosian remained true to himself, gradually eradicating all his weaknesses, until he achieved an awesome self-confidence and practical playing strength—first manifested in his victories in the Soviet championships of 1959 and 1961. This long program of self-improvement culminated in Petrosian's superb victory at the Curaçao candidates tournament of 1962. At this extremely arduous event, Petrosian's cautious attitude was fully justified, as his victory by a mere one-half point, over Keres and Geller, was attained because he was the only undefeated player.

After winning the title from Botvinnik in 1963 (5-2, with 15 draws) Petrosian, during his six-year tenure as champion, again had to put up with criticism about his continued inability to achieve outstanding results in international tournaments. However, Petrosian's forte has always been match play, and with the candidates competitions now being a series of elimination matches, he still could be a serious threat to Karpov.

224. Vasily Smyslov (1921-) dominated the mid-1950s and seemed destined not only to end Botvinnik's era but to follow it with one of his own. Smyslov's victories in two consecutive incredibly strong candidates tournaments, Neuhausen-Zurich 1953 and Amsterdam 1956, cannot be praised too highly. The 1953 event, a double-round affair pitting the 15 leading grandmasters in the world against each other, was perhaps the strongest tournament ever held—and Smyslov won fully two points ahead of the field. Though he could not overcome his catastrophic start against Botvinnik in their 1954 world championship match, where he only scored one-half point in the first four games, Smyslov was finally able to achieve a moral victory of sorts by drawing the match 7-7, with only 10 draws. Smyslov started the 1957 match more solidly and, leading by only one point, he broke Botvinnik's resistance in the latter half of the match by winning games 17 and 20. The final score was 6-3, with 13 draws. However, the man who was the best player in the world in 1957 could not summon up the stamina to retain his title in a return match against Botvinnik in 1958. He lost the first three games of their third match and was unable to recover. In later years Smyslov was not able to become a serious contender for the world title, but he has consistently been one of the Russians' best international competitors, and remains ranked among the best players in the world.

Smyslov's style is classical; he has often been compared to Capablanca and Rubinstein, and as an endgame player he has few peers. Despite his short tenure as champion, the magnificence of his games makes him one of the all-time greats of chess.

225. Game 12 of the first Botvinnik-Tal world championship match, which took place on April 12, 1960. The quiet position depicted on the giant wallboard at the right, reached via an old-fashioned Queen's Gambit, soon erupted in stormy complications from which Tal only just barely escaped with a draw. The large clocks behind the seated contestants on the podium show the time each player has left to complete the requisite 40 moves in two and one-half hours.

There is no place in the world where chess, as a spectator sport, has even approached the popularity it has attained in the Soviet Union, where it is not unusual for important matches or tournaments to be witnessed by crowds of over 2,000 people.

226. Spassky making the first move at the beginning of his second world championship match against Petrosian, on April 14, 1969. This time Spassky, the man described as having "the most universal style since Alekhine," finally defeated the seemingly impregnable Petrosian 6-4, with 13 draws.

Boris Spassky (1937-) started his career brilliantly in the early 1950s by winning the world junior championship and, at 18, becoming the youngest grandmaster ever (until Fischer later made it at 15). Spassky then went through a difficult period (1956-61) where he was struggling both over the board and in his personal life. He ended up divorcing his first wife of three years ("we were like bishops of opposite color") and separating from his chess trainer of eight years, Alexander Tolush. In 1961 Spassky won outright his first U.S.S.R. championship and his career started on an upward turn. This was mostly because of the relationship Spassky had formed with his new trainer, Igor Bondarevsky, an older grandmaster who, though past his prime as a player, was still a fine analyst. During the late 1960s Spassky became the strongest player in the world, displaying a suprisingly practical style. Equally adept at attack and defense, he generally chose openings which his particular opponent disliked, and is reminiscent of Lasker in this psychological approach to the game. After losing the world title to Fischer in 1972, Spassky's well-known pessimism seems to have returned and his results, except for a fine victory in the 1973 U.S.S.R. championship, have been erratic. As a relatively young super-grandmaster he may still have a chance to recover his title.

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227. All of the participants (except Bobby Fischer) at a memorable match held in March/April 1970: Here a team of the top ten Soviet grandmasters was pitted against a team of the ten best grandmasters from outside the Soviet Union in a quadruple-round match.

The Russians barely scraped through to victory, winning by the tiny margin of 20½–19½. They were saved from disgrace by the fine showing of their "old guard," especially Botvinnik, Smyslov, Geller and Keres, while none of their younger stars (Spassky, Petrosian, Korchnoi or Polugaevsky) could obtain a plus score on the higher boards. The Russians are well aware that if a similar event were held today, with the West getting ever stronger, they could by no means be certain of victory.

Bent Larsen, claiming his fine tournament results over the previous few years made him the West's leading player, threatened to quit if he wasn't put on first board. Fischer agreed and had an easy time with Petrosian, whom he crushed 3-1 on second board. The Russians substituted Stein for the world champion Spassky in the last round; they claimed he was ill, but in reality they had panicked after Spassky blundered against Larsen in the previous round. Stein also lost to Larsen. The Russians won, but in terms of cultural propaganda they knew they had scored a "Pyrrhic victory."

228. Vladimir Tukmakov (1946-) is just one of a promising new group of young grandmasters the Russians have developed in the 1970s. In 1975, 21 out of the 50 top-ranked players in the world were Soviet citizens.

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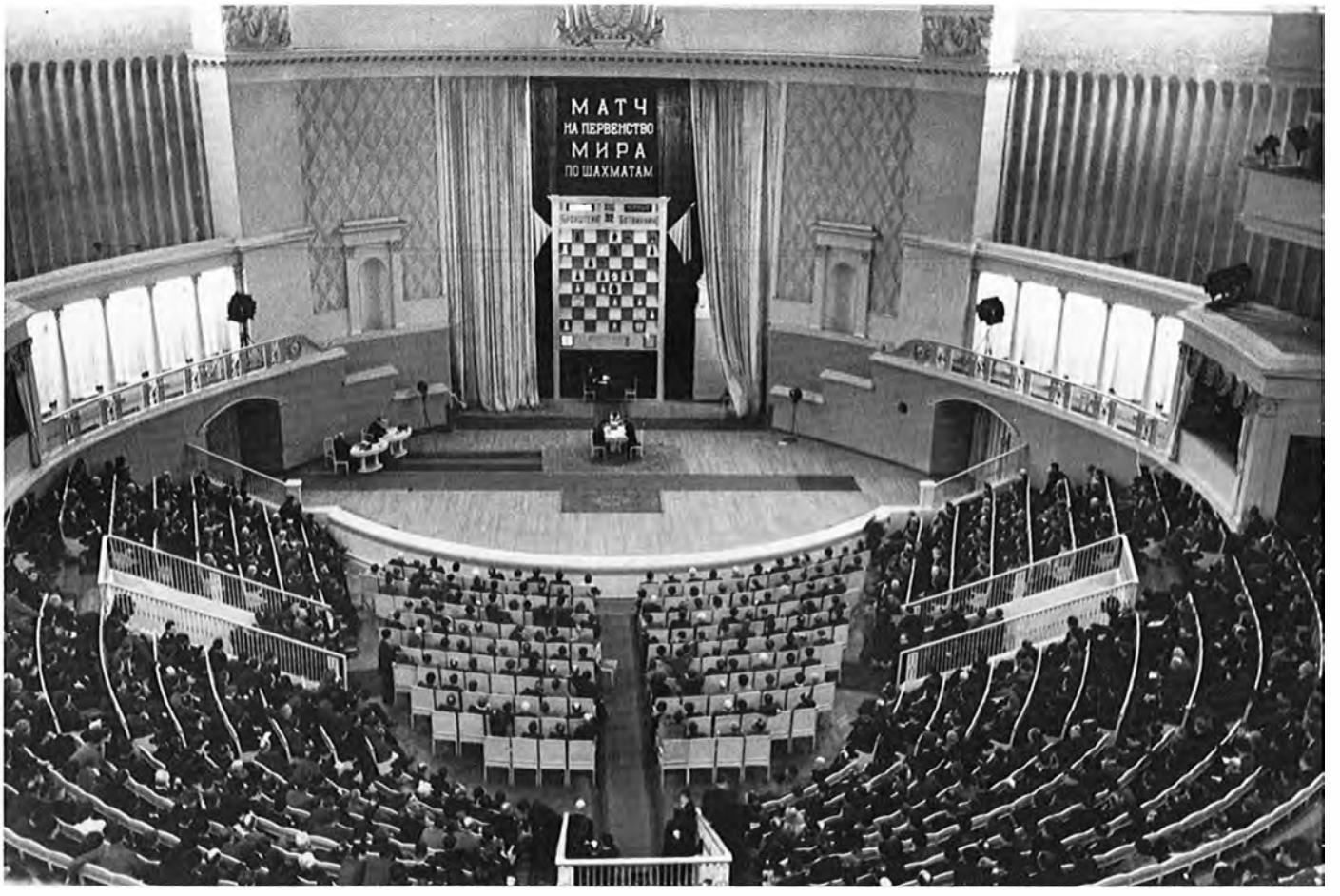
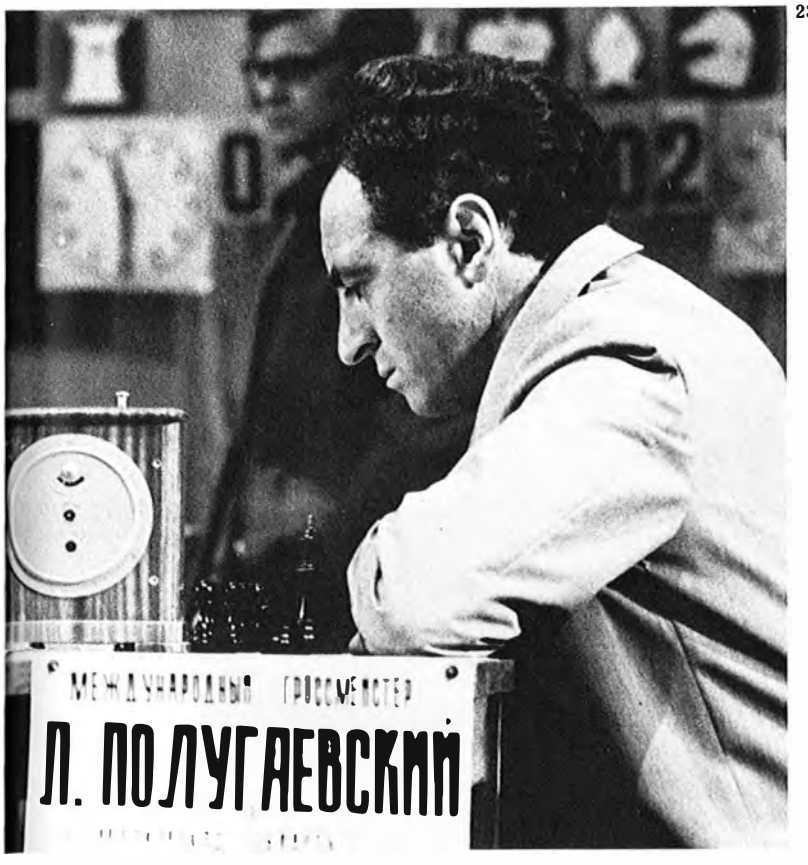
229. Petrosian is seen here glaring at Bulgarian grandmaster Milan Bobotsov at the start of their game at the Moscow tournament of 1967. It was a beautiful game for Petrosian, who trapped Bobotsov's queen on an apparently open board.

230. Gaprindashvili (left) en route to winning the U.S.S.R. women's chess championship in 1964. Here her opponent is R. Kazmina.



231. A packed house witnesses the twenty-second game of the Botvinnik-Bronstein world championship match at the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow, 1951.

With his fine victory in this game, one of the most brilliant ever played in world championship competition, Bronstein took the lead with only two games left to play. But he was a fiery young man and could not bear to play for draws in the final games. He chose the sharp King's Indian Defense in the next game and was beaten in a long and arduous endgame by his more experienced rival. In the last game, he sacrificed two pawns in the opening for a sharp attack, but Botvinnik found a neat simplifying combination and, faced with a losing endgame, Bronstein accepted the champion's draw offer. Thus Botvinnik survived the first challenge to his title.



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232. Lev Polugaevsky (1934–) has been one of the most consistently successful Russian grandmasters over the last ten years, especially in the Russian championship. He tied for first with Tal in the 1967 Soviet championship and won the next one at the beginning of 1969 after beating Alexander Zaitzev in a playoff match. He then shared first with Petrosian in the event held at the end of 1969, although he lost the playoff match. He won several strong international tournaments in the early 1970s and is well known as a dangerously innovative player. Polugaevsky only seems to falter when involved in world championship preliminary competition; although he finally made it to the candidates matches in 1974, he was crushed by Karpov in the quarter final, 3-0, with 5 draws.

233. Leonid Stein (1934–73) was another leading Russian grandmaster during the 1960s, and was to have participated in the Petropolis (Brazil) interzonal tournament in August 1973, but died unexpectedly of a heart attack a month before it started. Stein won three U.S.S.R. championships (1963, 1965 and 1970) and like Polugaevsky, played below par only when involved in world championship competition; he just barely failed to become one of the official challengers both in 1964 and 1967. He is remembered as an extremely sharp attacking player, who delighted in complicated variations demanding deep calculation.

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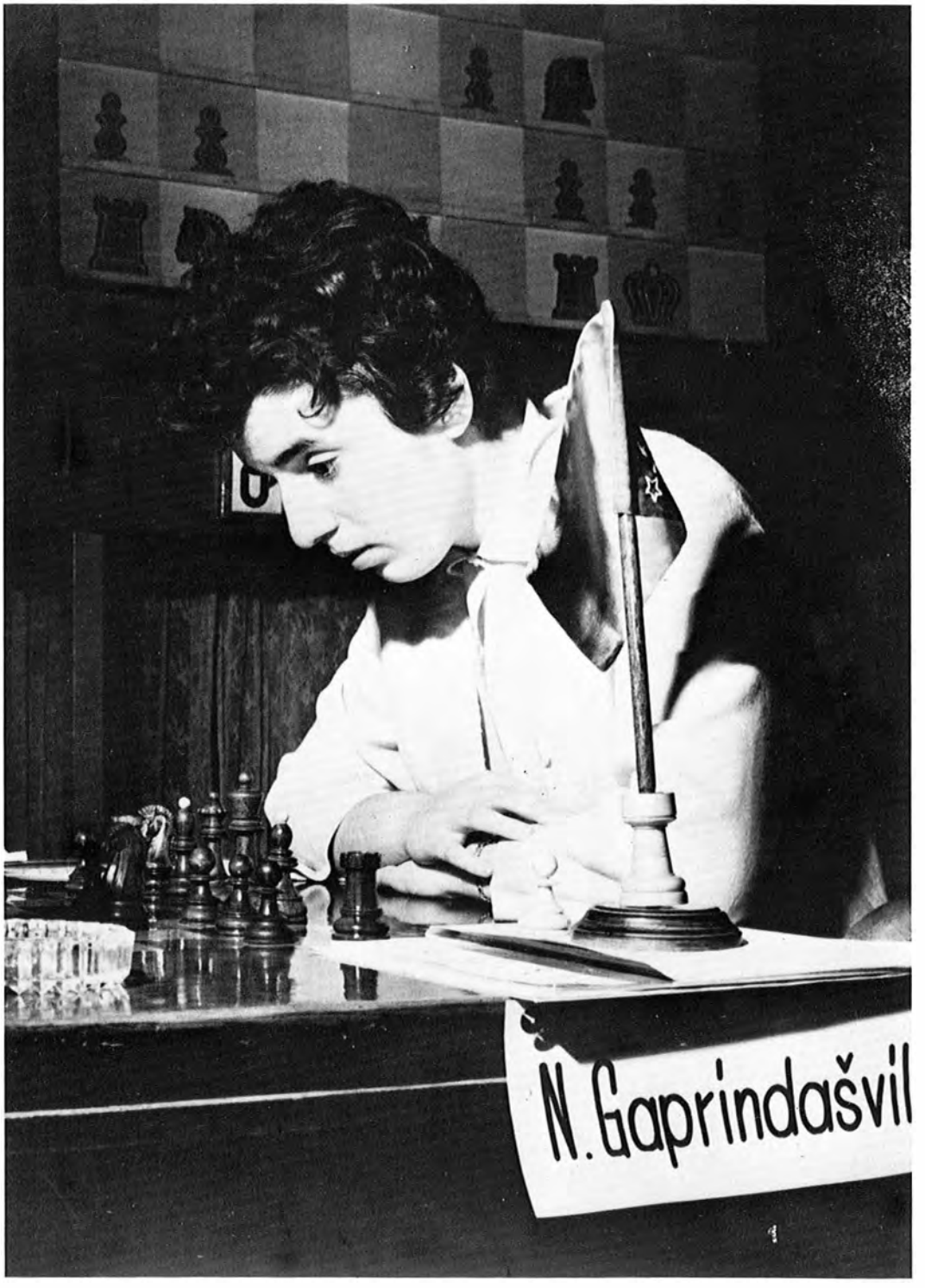
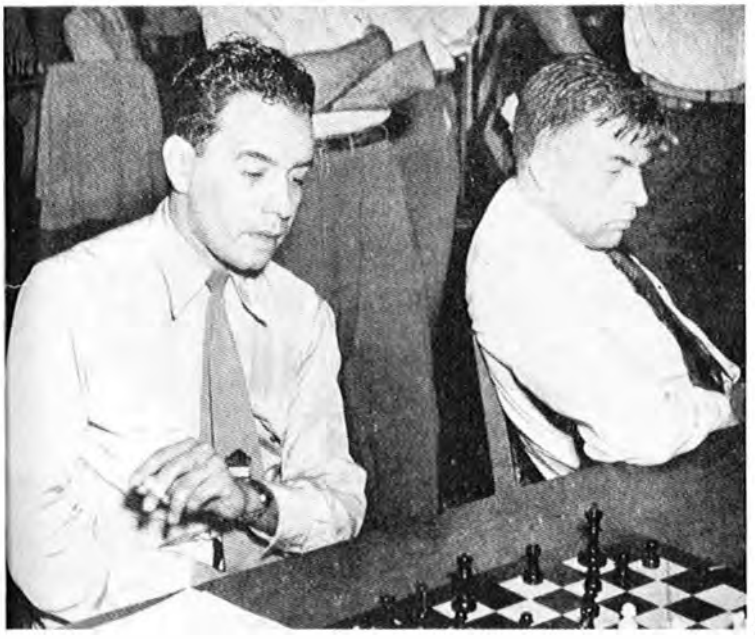
234. Spassky, his second wife Larisa, and son Vasya in 1971. Spassky later divorced Larisa, and was in the news in 1975 when the Soviet authorities threatened to expel his fiancee Marina Stcherbatcheff, who, though of Russian descent, was of French nationality and worked for the French embassy in Moscow. But Spassky, never a docile fellow, complained vociferously to his many foreign friends and the Soviet bureaucracy finally relented, allowing the couple to marry in September of 1975.

235. Petrosian at home playing chess with his son Vartan in 1961.



236. Nona Gaprindashvili (1941-) was women's world champion from 1962 until 1978, when she was defeated in a title match by her young compatriot Maya Chiburdanidze (1961-). Before 1978 she had always easily defended her title against various fellow Russian women, and is still generally considered to be the strongest woman chessplayer of all time. Her style is aggressive, and she delights in combinative, attacking play. Most talented women players tend to play positionally and rather passively, and Gaprindashvili has taken sharp advantage of this fact throughout her career. On a few occasions she has been allowed to compete in men's international tournaments and has achieved modest success. She is, so far, the only woman to have ever been awarded the official title of international grandmaster.

237. Another reason why the Russians are collectively so much better than we are at chess—a chess class for children at a public school. The Soviets sincerely believe that chess helps develop intellectual ability. Here, in Voronezh in 1968, an experimental program was held to see if pupils doing poorly in mathematics could improve their comprehension by studying chess. According to the Russians, after three terms the slower students had already caught up with their peers.



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238. Weaver W. Adams (1901-63), seated right, was certainly the oddest American chess master of his time. A strong, aggressive player who produced many nice attacking games, he had one well-known peculiarity. He sincerely believed that the player with the white pieces should win by force, and wrote several monographs propounding his unique viewpoint, such as *White to Play and Win* (1939). In spite of his beliefs, Adams did fairly well in American tournaments during the 1930s and 1940s, his best achievement being clear first, ahead of Kashdan, Kramer and Ulvestad, at the United States Open Championship of 1948.

239. Abraham Kupchik (1892-1970) was one of the most consistent American masters during the two decades following World War I, almost always achieving respectable, if not outstanding, results in local and national events. A solid, "natural" player, who disdained theory, Kupchik was especially adept in closed positions where his great patience often succeeded in provoking opponents into something rash. That he could hold his own against top professionals was well proven at Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey, in 1926, where he finished second, behind Capablanca but ahead of Maróczy and Marshall.

Kupchik spent the last dozen or so years of his life hustling at a grimy chess parlor in midtown New York City. I can still remember the twinkle in his eye when he said (often) to his beaten, dejected customer, "Of course you had the better game!"

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240. Anthony E. Santasiere (1904–77) was for many years one of the most colorful and consistent American masters. He was especially successful in strong local and state events, winning the New York Marshall Chess Club championship five times and the New York State championship four times. He finished second, behind Reshevsky, at the U.S. Open Championship in Boston in 1944, and clear first at the U.S. Open in Peoria in 1945. A self-admitted romantic, Santasiere played many delightful games with both the King's Gambit and his own favorite Santasiere's Folly (1. N-KB3, P-Q4; 2. P-QN4).

241. Albert C. Simonson (right) was one of the strongest American masters during the 1930s. Simonson was a truly gifted tactician and came close to scoring a sensational upset in the 1936 United States championship. He entered the last round one-half point ahead of Reshevsky, but then lost to a tail-ender while Sammy won, and had to settle for clear second place above Fine and Treysman. Simonson could clearly have become a grandmaster had he been able to treat chess as something more than only an avocation. But in the 1930s it was virtually impossible to support oneself, let alone a family, by playing chess in America. Simonson was only one of several highly talented Americans, including Arthur Dake, who scored very well in irregularly held national events, but chose not to become chess professionals because the financial rewards were terribly insufficient.

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242. Euwe ponders his move while Fine waits, almost disinterestedly, at the New York international tournament of 1948/49. Fine won the event easily.

243. Botvinnik vs. Lombardy at the Leipzig Olympiad, 1960. The young American, then world junior champion, drew this game. Two years earlier, at the Munich Olympiad, he even reached a winning position against Botvinnik, but slipped and allowed the world champion to draw. Later in 1960, Lombardy made amends by leading the American team to a surprising upset victory over the Russians at the Student Olympiad, not only crushing Spassky in their individual game, but scoring 12 out of 13 points overall.

William Lombardy (1937-) is unique among grandmasters in that he was formerly a Catholic priest. His international results have been erratic of late due to lack of consistent practice, but he is a dangerous opponent who excels at complex maneuvering in unclear middle game positions.

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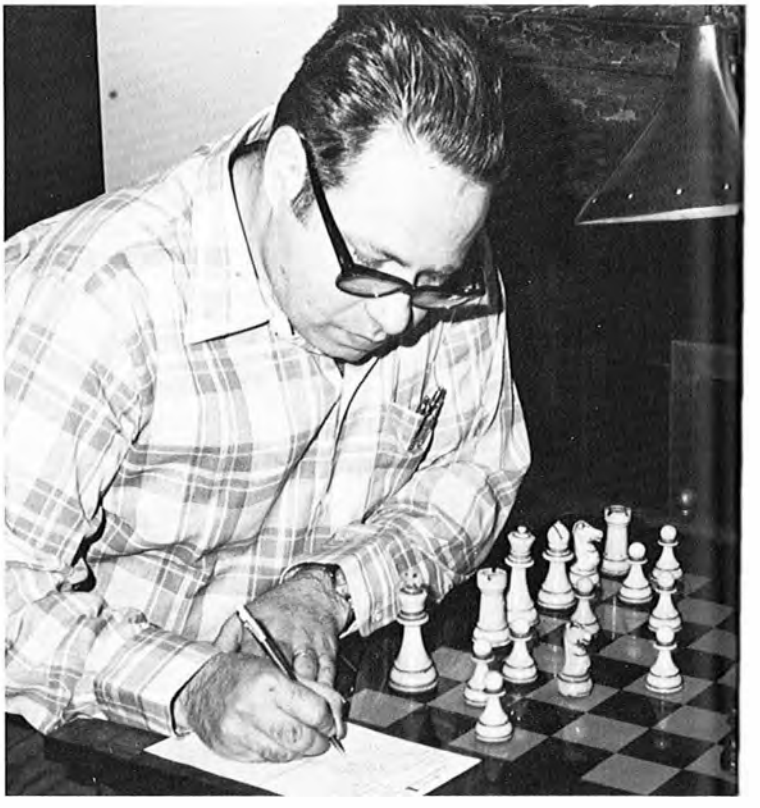

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244. Young Larry Evans vs. Najdorf at the New York international tournament of 1951. Evans, still in his teens, finished a respectable fifth behind Reshevsky, Euwe, Najdorf and Fine, but two months later upstaged Sammy sensationally by becoming the youngest player (until Bobby Fischer did it at 14) to win the United States championship.

245. Arthur Bisguier (1929-) has been a mainstay of American chess for more than two decades, becoming an interntional grandmaster in 1957 and holding the U.S. championship title from 1954 to 1958. A sharp, classical player, with a distinct preference for those positions arising from the older double king-pawn or queen-pawn openings, Bisguier is well known for his original attempts to evade established openings theory when combating such modern defenses as the Sicilian or the Pirc. While his international results have been erratic, at home he is one of the most successful of all American masters in those grueling short Swiss tournaments, where one often has to play, in a condensed time period (usually 50 moves in two hours), two or three games in a single day.

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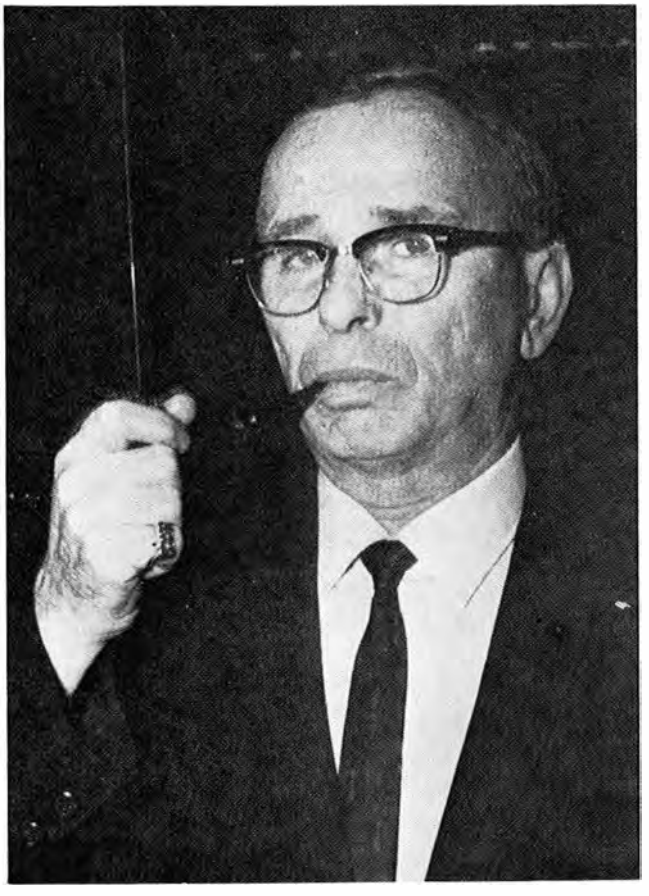
246 & 247. Two views of the dramatic last-round struggle between Fine (right) and Reshevsky at the U.S. championship of 1940. Reshevsky, Fine's nemesis, gained a hard-fought draw here and won the event.

Reuben Fine (1914–) was one of the strongest players in the world for about 14 years (1935–48), and many felt he would eventually become world champion. A logically aggressive style coupled with a profound knowledge of openings theory brought him several fine results in the mid-1930s, culminating in his tie for first at A.V.R.O. 1938 with Keres. However, during and after the war he became more and more interested in his psychoanalytic career and declined an invitation to play in the 1948 world championship tourney, claiming lack of serious practice. During this period he did, however, write a great deal on chess, and today such works as *Basic Chess Endings, The Ideas Behind the Chess Openings, Chess the Easy Way, The Psychology of the Chess Player* and *The Middle Game in Chess* are recognized as classics.



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248. Samuel Reshevsky (1911–) was the premier American player for nearly 30 years and almost totally dominated two generations of American masters. He won the U.S. championship six times and, during the period 1941–61, met and defeated many of the best American players in matches, including Horowitz, Kashdan, Lombardy, Bisguier, Donald Byrne, Benko and Fischer (who forfeited over a scheduling dispute, the score tied at 5½–5½ with five games to go). He set one record that will probably never be equaled in U.S. championship play when, between 1936 and 1942, he played 75 successive games in title events without a single loss. In his first foreign tournament, at Margate, England, in 1935, Reshevsky won clear first ahead of Capablanca, and beat the great Cuban in an immortal, gloriously hard-fought game. During the late 1930s he competed abroad often, with great success, and was reckoned as one of the five best players in the world. In 1944, with a wife and child to support, Reshevsky decided to become an accountant, and has since participated only in those chess events where the possible financial rewards have justified the time spent away from his work and family. Even up to today he has consistently achieved amazingly good overall results, perhaps the most memorable being equal second, with Keres and Bronstein, at the candidates tournament in Neuhausen/Zurich 1953 (Reshevsky, with little time for preparation, went to this marathon event alone, without even a second to help him with adjourned games). Now in his sixties, he continues to play strong grandmaster chess.

"Sammy," as Reshevsky is affectionately called, is known throughout the world for his great durability and toughness. Euwe's perceptive description of his intransigent style, in his superb *Meet the Masters* (1945) still holds true:

> He is above all a practical man, his play being simple and solid. His games give the impression that he does not seek for absolutely the best move, but is content if he finds a good one: that is, perhaps, unless the circumstances necessitate otherwise. He is an excellent tactician, seeing "stock" combinations at lightning speed, especially in defence, which brings out his combinative skill to the utmost. He does not originate sharp attacks or complications from choice. His inexhaustible patience enables him to hang on for hours and hours, his games often passing into lengthy endings. He has been called a specialist in the endgame, but this is hardly correct; his admittedly numerous successes must be ascribed to tenacity and endurance rather than sheer talent. Naturally, the longer the game lasts, the greater the chance that his persistency and his equal partiality for any sort of position will bear fruit. On the whole, Reshevsky's play is less deep than clever; less safe than diligent; less pretty than strong. His place among the foremost masters is fully deserved.

249. Reshevsky at the international chess Olympic team tournament held in Tel Aviv in 1964.

For a small country Israel has a very strong and well-organized chess federation. It has held several international tournaments and has already hosted its second chess Olympiad, at Haifa in 1976.

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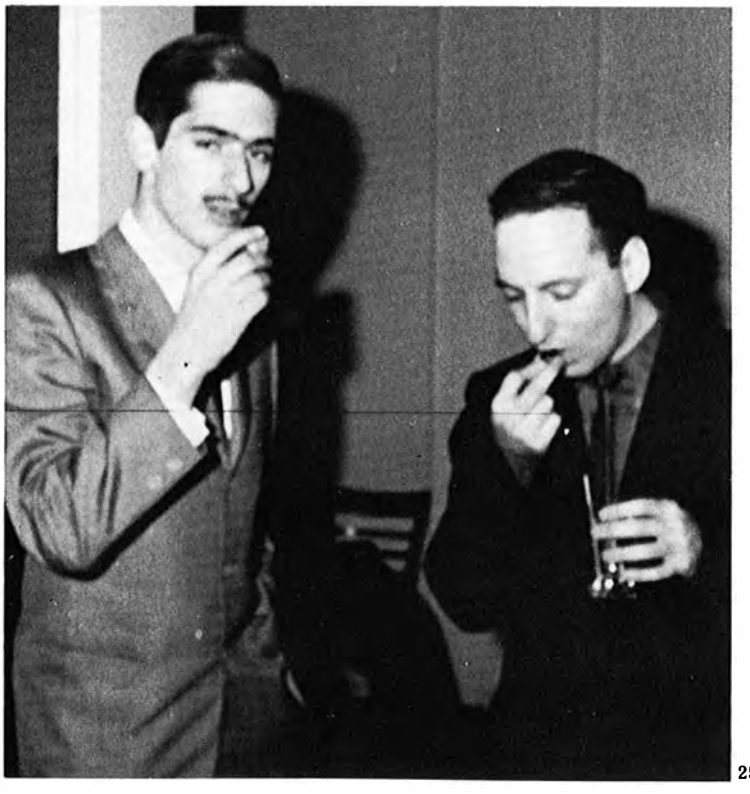

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250. Saidy, Robert Byrne, Benko, Addison and Reshevsky before the start of a round at the U.S. championship held in New York in 1969. A three-way tie for first necessitated a playoff match, which Robert Byrne won ahead of Reshevsky and Kavalek.

251. Two of the younger stars on the North American chess scene are Duncan Suttles (left) and Bernard Zuckerman. Suttles emigrated to Canada several years ago, quickly become that country's leading player, and is now an international grandmaster. He is known for always playing his own peculiar, closed, and slightly bizarre openings systems both with white and black, and some say he succeeds in spite of himself, so to speak, being a very resourceful and clever tactician.

Zuckerman is a steady, if not outstandingly successful international master, and a profound openings theoretician. It is said that, with the exception of Bobby Fischer, he knows more about modern openings theory than anyone else in the United States today.

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252. Hans Berliner (1929-) is one of the strongest correspondence players in the world and is the only American international grandmaster of correspondence chess. A talented "over-the-board" player, Berliner won the U.S. Army championship in a match against Bisguier in 1952, but, being a self-admitted perfectionist, he soon afterwards gravitated towards correspondence chess, which requires the most extreme diligence, thoroughness and patience imaginable. A single game can take up to three years to complete and, almost always, the tiniest mistake will inexorably lead to defeat. Scoring an incredible 17½ out of 19 in the two preliminary events, Berliner proceeded to win the fifth correspondence world championship with the fantastic score of 14 out of 16, three full points ahead of his nearest rivals—the only undefeated player.

Although popular since the early nineteenth century it was not until after World War II, with the founding of the International Correspondence Chess Federation, that a competition was established to produce a world champion of correspondence chess. As of 1976 seven international world correspondence championships have been held, the winners being: C. J. S. Purdy (Australia) in 1953, V. Ragosin (U.S.S.R.) in 1958, A. O'Kelly de Galway (Belgium) in 1962, V. Zagorovsky (U.S.S.R.) in 1965, H. Berliner (U.S.A.) in 1968, H. Rittner (East Germany) in 1971, and Y. Estrin (U.S.S.R.) in 1975.

Because of the extra time available for analysis and preparation modern corespondence chess tends to produce many very exciting and complicated games. At the highest levels it is necessary to play for a win in almost every game. Aggressive openings and defenses abound, and, surprisingly, many encounters are decided in the middle game. Indeed, the major factor in Berliner's great victory was his tremendous score of 7 out of 8 possible points with the black pieces, which he achieved by using the extremely sharp King's Indian, Two Knights' and Alekhine's Defenses.

253. Nicolas Rossolimo (1910-1975), born in Kiev, spent his youth in France and was French champion in 1948. After becoming a grandmaster in 1953, awarded the title on the basis of several fine European results, he emigrated to the United States and soon after opened his famous chess studio in New York City's Greenwich Village. In 1955 he won the U.S. Open Championship and represented America at chess Olympiads in 1958, 1960 and 1966. A superb combinational player, Rossolimo was more interested in creating beautiful games than in playing to win. Although occasionally inconsistent he was a genuine chess artist and has left us a rich legacy of brilliancies.

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254 & 255. Two views of the International Chess Olympiad held in Tel Aviv in 1964.

Here the Russians won easily, as usual. They have, in fact, won *every* men's Olympic chess team tournament they have participated in, from Helsinki 1952 to Nice 1974. For political reasons the Russians refused participation at Haifa 1976, won by the American team. They take the chess Olympics very seriously and consider their victories in these events to be an important cultural achievement, especially in terms of educational propaganda. Recently their domination in these events has been seriously challenged, as at Skopje (Yugoslavia) 1972, when they narrowly edged out the Hungarians, and at Buenos Aires 1978 where they actually finished second to the strong, young Hungarian team. One Soviet player plaintively said, "They don't understand at home. They think something must be wrong with our culture!"

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256. Taimanov playing Evans at the International Chess Olympiad held in Havana in 1966. Standing behind them on the left is Che Guevara, reputed to have been an ardent chess enthusiast.

Here the Americans, headed by Bobby Fischer, made their best showing since their first place at Stockholm 1937, finishing second, 5½ points behind the Russians, but a full point ahead of the powerful Yugoslavian and Hungarian teams, who tied for third and fourth.

257. Lombardy (left) and Evans at the Manhattan Chess Club in 1958.

Larry Evans (1932–) has been one of the most consistently successful American players over the last 25 years, winning the U.S. championship three times (in 1951, 1962, and 1968) and the U.S. Open title on four occasions (in 1951, 1952, 1954 and 1971). An international grandmaster since 1957, Evans has represented the United States on nine Olympic teams and is a prolific chess author.

Stylistically, Evans is a cool defensive player and a dangerous counter-puncher who delights in refuting sacrificial attacks and winning by a material advantage in the endgame.

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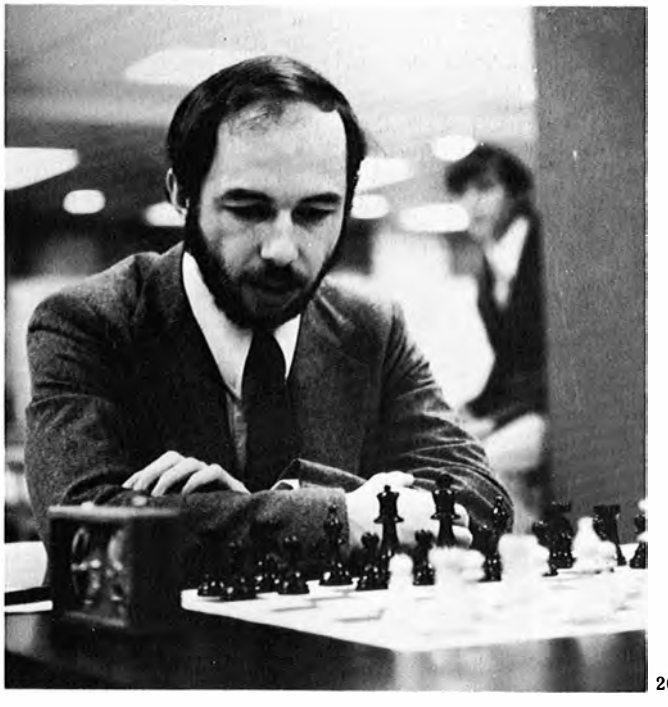

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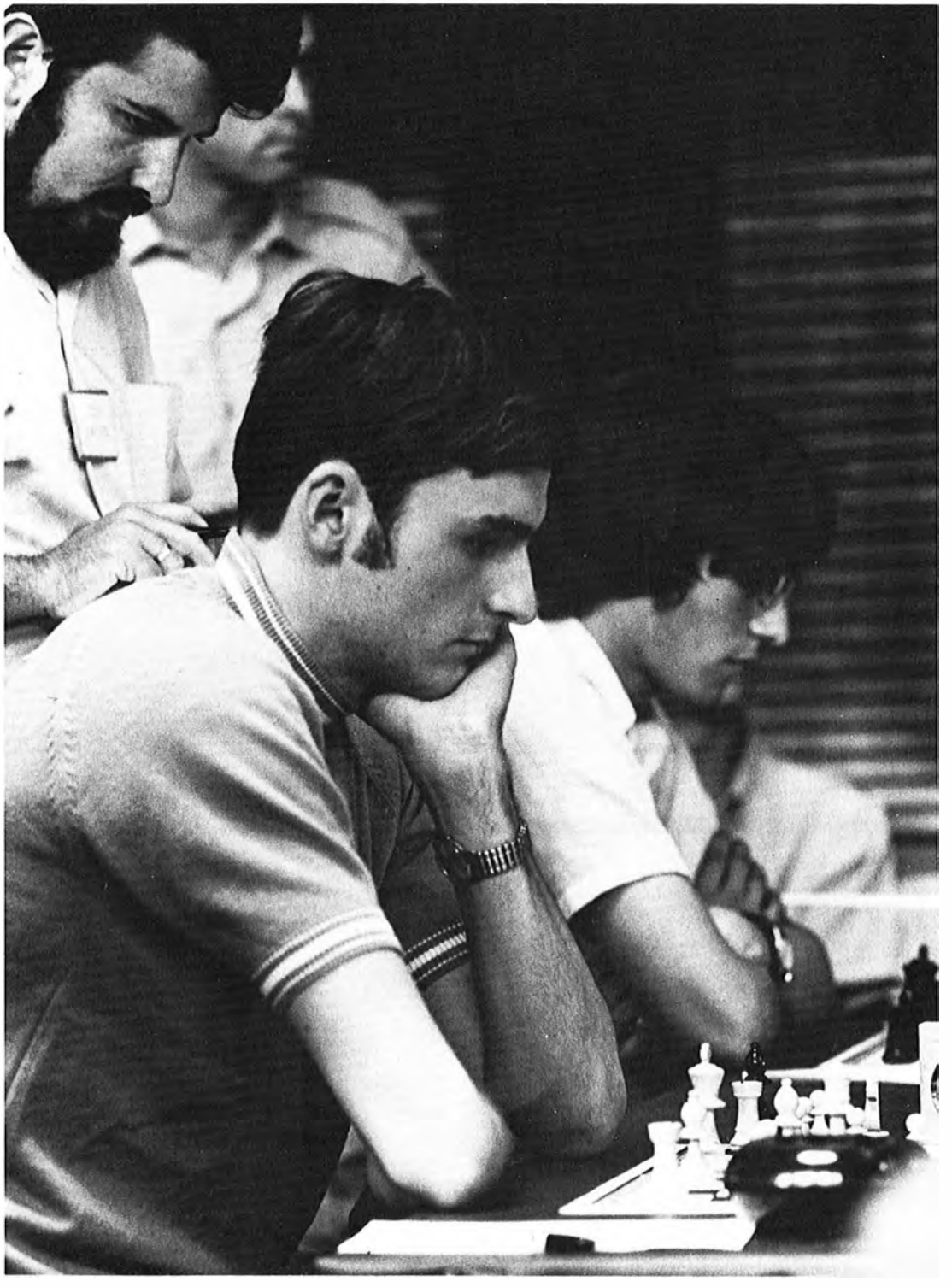
258. Robert Byrne (1928-), international grandmaster since 1964, and chess columnist of the *New York Times*, has already won the U.S. Open title three times (1960, 1963 and 1968) and was national champion in 1972. His finest result was a clear third at the Leningrad interzonal tournament of 1973, behind Karpov and Korchnoi (tied for first and second), but ahead of such giants as Larsen, Tal and Hubner.

259. Donald Byrne (died 1976), Robert's brother, international master since 1962 and winner of the U.S. Open in 1953.

260. Pal Benko (1928-), Hungarian champion in 1948, international grandmaster since 1958, fled his homeland during the 1956 uprising and is now an American citizen. He has won or tied for first in six U.S. Opens, more than anyone else.

261. Lubomir Kavalek (1943–), international grandmaster since 1966, a native Czechoslovakian and now a U.S. citizen. He was equal first, with John Grefe, in the U.S. championship of 1973 and is the most consistently successful American competing abroad today.



262. Two more promising young Americans, Andrew Soltis (left) and Kenneth Rogoff.

Soltis is an imaginative and cool tactician who plays chess for fun. He has won the strong Marshall Chess Club championship in New York City four times and the intercollegiate title in 1969, and played on six consecutive American student Olympic teams, leading the United States to its only victory in recent years with his remarkable score of 8-1 on first board in 1970. Now a professional reporter, Soltis is also well on his way to becoming a most prolific chess author, having already published four popular games collections and over a dozen theoretical openings pamphlets. He also writes a very entertaining and lively chess column once a week in the New York Post.

Rogoff's achievement of second place at the 1975 U.S. championship ahead of a galaxy of grandmasters (Byrne, Reshevsky, Kavalek, Lombardy, etc.) was one of the biggest surprises in American chess during the last few years. An indefatigable worker with encyclopedic openings knowledge, Rogoff is considered by many as having an excellent chance of becoming one of America's newest international grandmasters.

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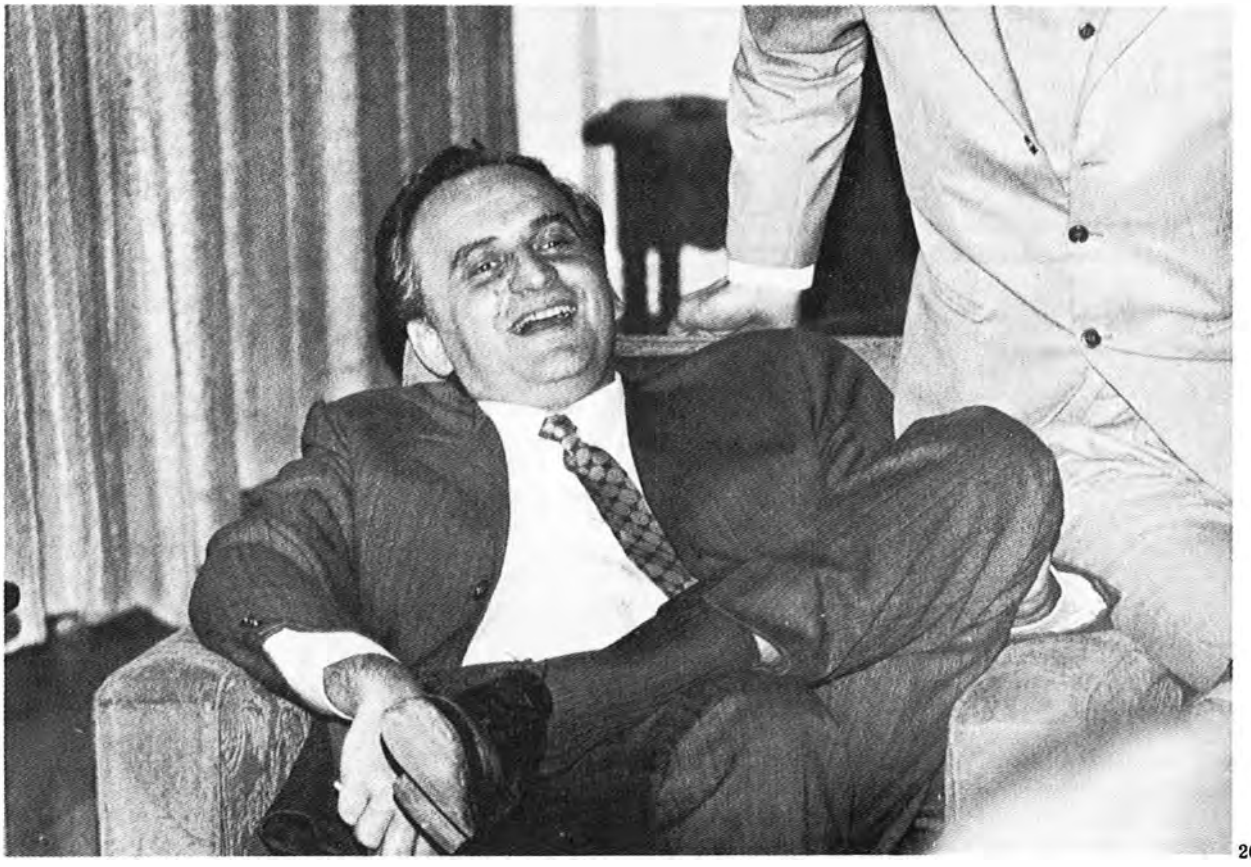
263. Svetozar Gligoric (1923-), Yugoslav champion a record 11 times, and still ranked, at the age of 53, among the top twenty players in the world. Gligoric has probably played in more international tournaments than any other grandmaster, and his consistently fine showings over three decades are beyond superlatives. He has been tilting with the Russians in the cyclical world title competitions since 1953, and although he has never been able to become the official challenger, there is not a single world champion from Botvinnik to Fischer whom he has not beaten at least once, and most of them several times. A great strategist, Gligoric is also world-renowned as a profound openings theoretician, and he has contributed enormously to the evolution of most major modern systems, especially the King's Indian and Modern Benoni Defenses.

Gligoric, one of the most able chess journalists in the world, speaks several languages fluently. He writes what is probably the single most popular column in chess periodical literature today, "The Game of The Month," which has been the highlight of *Chess Life & Review* for several years.

264. Borislav Ivkov (1933-), the first world junior champion (in 1951), has been playing second fiddle to Gligoric for many years, although he has managed to win the Yugoslav championship twice. Ivkov is one of those steady grandmasters who is content to draw with his peers while using his refined technique to grind down lesser opposition. This passive attitude does not garner many first prizes but does tend to produce respectable results; it is sadly indicative of quite a few modern professionals who no longer aspire to become world champion.



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265. The strain and tension endured by players in top-level tournament competition is starkly outlined above in Gligoric's face, here pondering at a recent event while his compatriot grandmaster Matulovic is on the move. It cannot be overemphasized just how important stamina is to the professional chess master. The fatigue occasioned by serious chess is enormous and this is precisely the reason why only the very greatest players have not already passed their peak by the age of 40.

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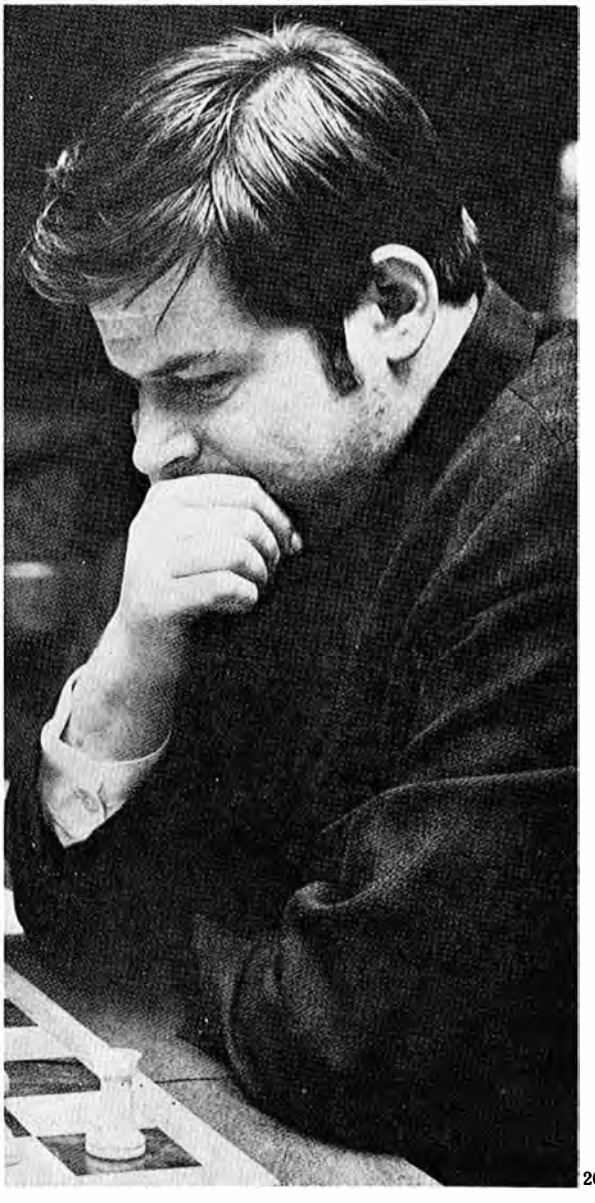

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266 & 267. Two views of the Hungarian grandmaster Lajos Portisch (1937-).

Winner of the Hungarian championship seven times since 1958, Portisch is one of the most consistently successful tournament competitors of the 1970s. He works incessantly, studying and improving upon established theory, and some feel that now he is the strongest active non-Soviet grandmaster in the world.

268. Vlastimil Hort (1944-) of Czechoslovakia is another of today's chess elite, an extremely solid and practical-minded grandmaster. He has recently won several very strong international tournaments and seems now to be fighting much harder than he did in previous years; he cannot be ruled out as a possible threat to the present Soviet hegemony over the world chess throne.

269. Bent Larsen (1935-) of Denmark is one of the greatest, most popular and most exciting players of modern times. Possessed by a fanatic will to win, Larsen is truly one of those select few who literally know no fear. He despises draws and, though occasionally he goes too far and overreaches himself in trying to avoid them, his magnificent tactical intuition and boundless self-confidence in complicated positions have made him, after Fischer, the second leading Western tournament player during the last 15 years. In the space of less than one year (1967-68) he set the modern record for most consecutive tournament victories, winning no less than five major events in a row (Havana, Winnipeg, Palma de Mallorca, Monte Carlo and the U.S. Open Championship at Snowmass, Colorado). After Fischer, Larsen was the one non-Soviet player the Russians feared the most during the late 1960s and early 1970s. He has been a regular candidate for the world championship since 1965.

270. Larsen and Spassky at the start of the U.S.S.R. vs. The World match in 1970.

Spassky, even more than Fischer, has been Larsen's particular *bête noire*, having a large personal plus score against the volatile Dane, including an extremely one-sided victory (6½-3½) in the final of the 1968 candidates matches. This is probably because Spassky, while also a tactical genius, is considerably less compulsive than Larsen, and he knows that if he just plays solidly, often his tempestuous opponent will finally go beyond the bounds of soundness in trying to win.

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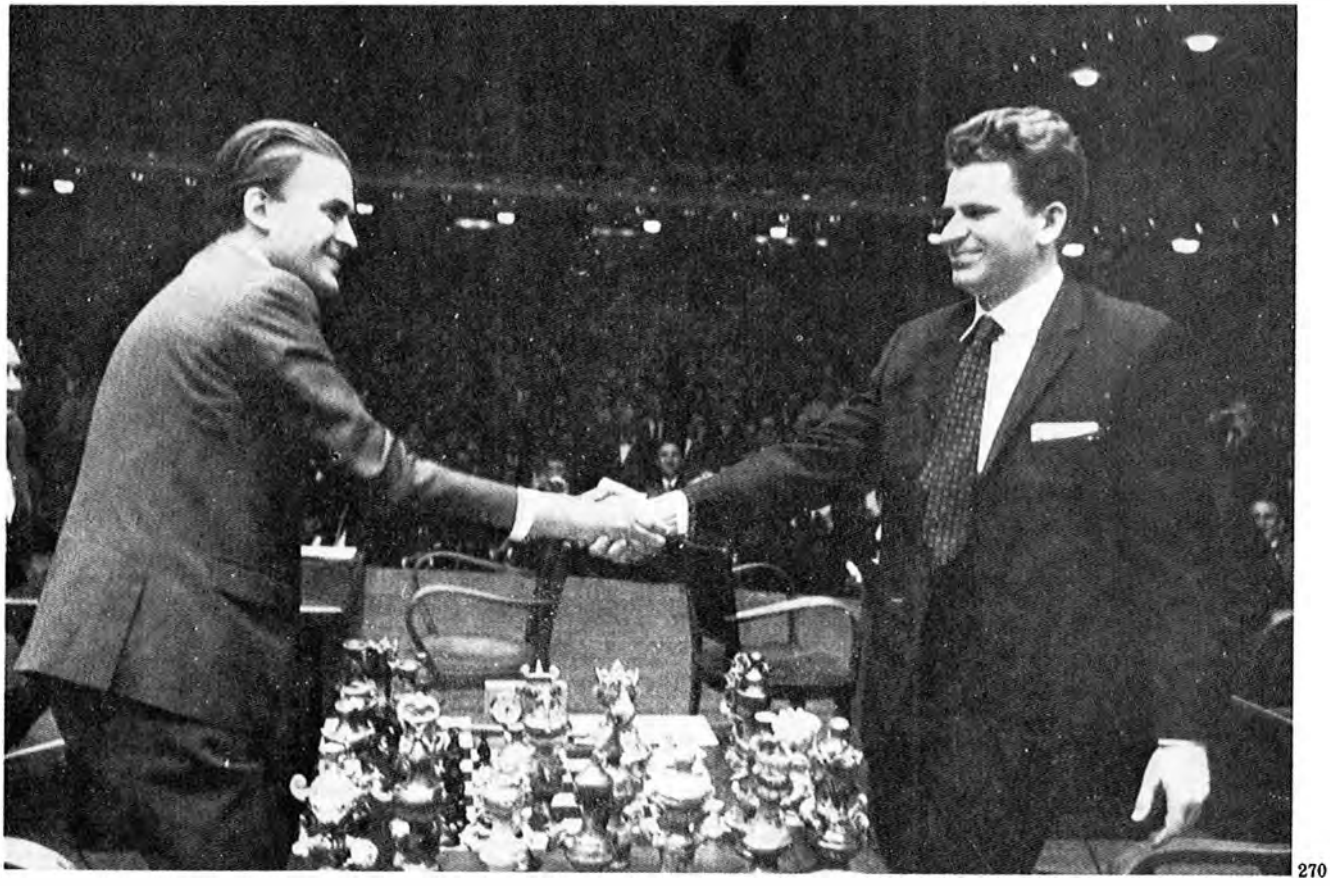

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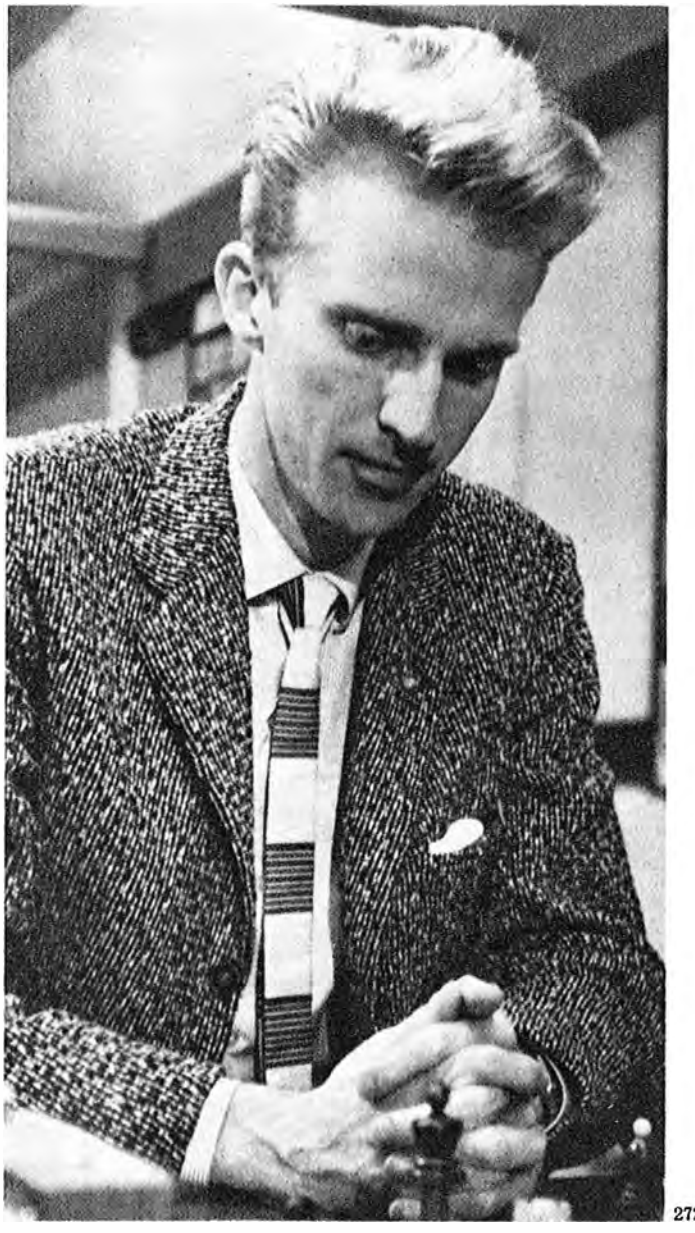
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271. Wolfgang Uhlmann (1935-), many times East German champion and an international grandmaster since 1959, is famous throughout the chess world for a unique obsession—he always, when allowed to, plays the French Defense. He has revived, almost single-handedly, this solid old opening and has especially contributed to the currently favorable reappraisal of the sharp Winawer Variation (1. P-K4, P-K3, 2. P-Q4, P-Q4; N-QB3, B-N5). He has been quite successful in spite of his opponents' always knowing what is coming in the opening, apparently proving that in chess a man should stick to what he knows best.

272. Fridrik Olafsson (1935-), many time Icelandic champion, was one of the most promising young grandmasters during the late 1950s. Although he only finished next to last at the candidates tournament of 1959, he did succeed in beating Petrosian twice, and Keres and Fischer once each. Despite the prospect of a brilliant future in chess, he soon after chose to devote most of his time to his work in governmental law. He played infrequently until recently, when he began again to compete in tough international events with surprisingly good results. In 1979 he was elected president of the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

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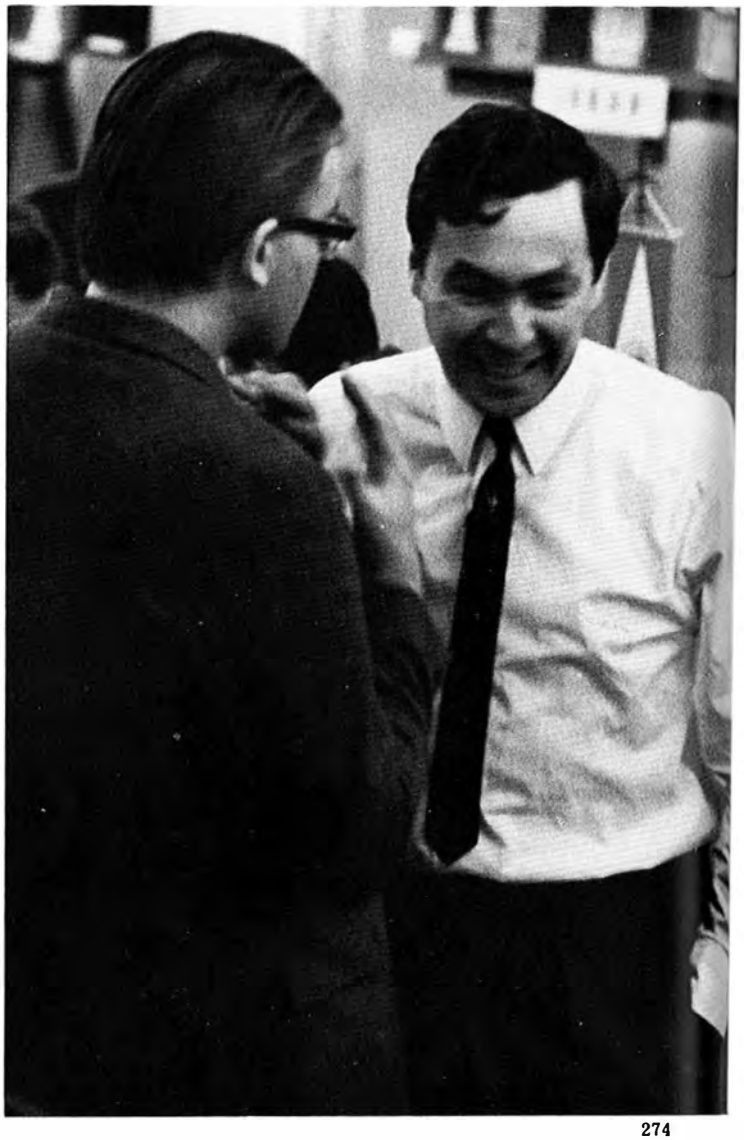

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273. Miguel Najdorf (1910–), the oldest active international grandmaster, is originally from Poland but, finding himself stranded at the Buenos Aires Olympiad in 1939 after his country was overrun by the Nazis, he elected to remain in South America and became an Argentine citizen in 1944. He has dominated Latin American events for over three decades, winning the Argentine championship a record eight times, the most recent being in 1975—when he was 65 years old. After the Second World War Najdorf was for many years considered one of the top ten players in the world, his brilliantly combinative and optimistic style making him an especially dangerous tournament competitor, among his finest results being clear firsts at Amsterdam 1950, ahead of Reshevsky and Gligoric, and Havana 1962, above Spassky and Polugaevsky.

Najdorf is also an extremely successful businessman and is one of those very few grandmasters who, not being dependent on the game for a living, is able to play chess for the sheer fun of it. He is extraordinarily popular throughout the world because of a great sense of humor and his warm, outgoing and, unlike some grandmasters, not in the least condescending personality. He is also the strongest blindfold player since Alekhine, having once, in Brazil in 1945, played, without sight of the boards, 45 games simultaneously.

274. Oscar Panno (1935–), international grandmaster since 1955 and the first native-born South American player after Capablanca to achieve that title, is seen chuckling over something Larsen has said to him at the Palma de Mallorca (Spain) interzonal tournament of 1970. Perhaps Larsen has told him that he has now entered the record books as being the only player ever to *lose* a game to Fischer by default. He did this in protest over having his last-round game with Fischer rescheduled without his permission, so that Fischer, who is now a Seventh Day Adventist, could observe his Sabbath.

Panno, who has several times been involved in world championship preliminary competitions, is a profound positional player, and has frequently represented Argentina in chess Olympiads, his best results being first prize for the best score on second board (77.8%, 10 wins and 8 draws) at Havana in 1966.

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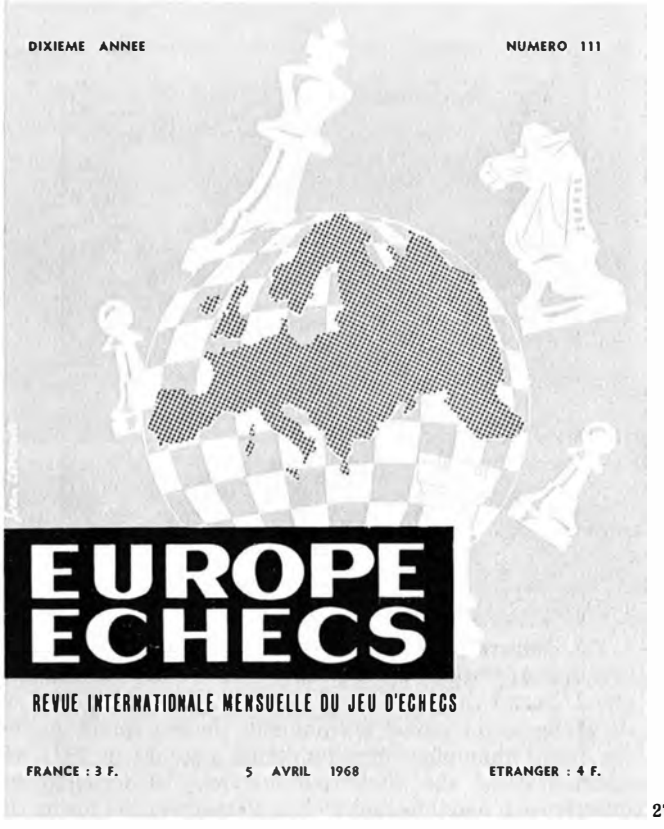

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275 & 276. Two of the leading foreign chess periodicals: *Shakhmatny Bulletin* (Soviet Union), and *Europe Echecs* (France).

Chess periodical literature has proliferated incredibly since the turn of the century, when there were perhaps, at any given time, no more than 30 separate chess publications in the world. As of 1975, the enormous John G. White Collection at the Cleveland Public Library was subscribing to 264 different chess magazines.

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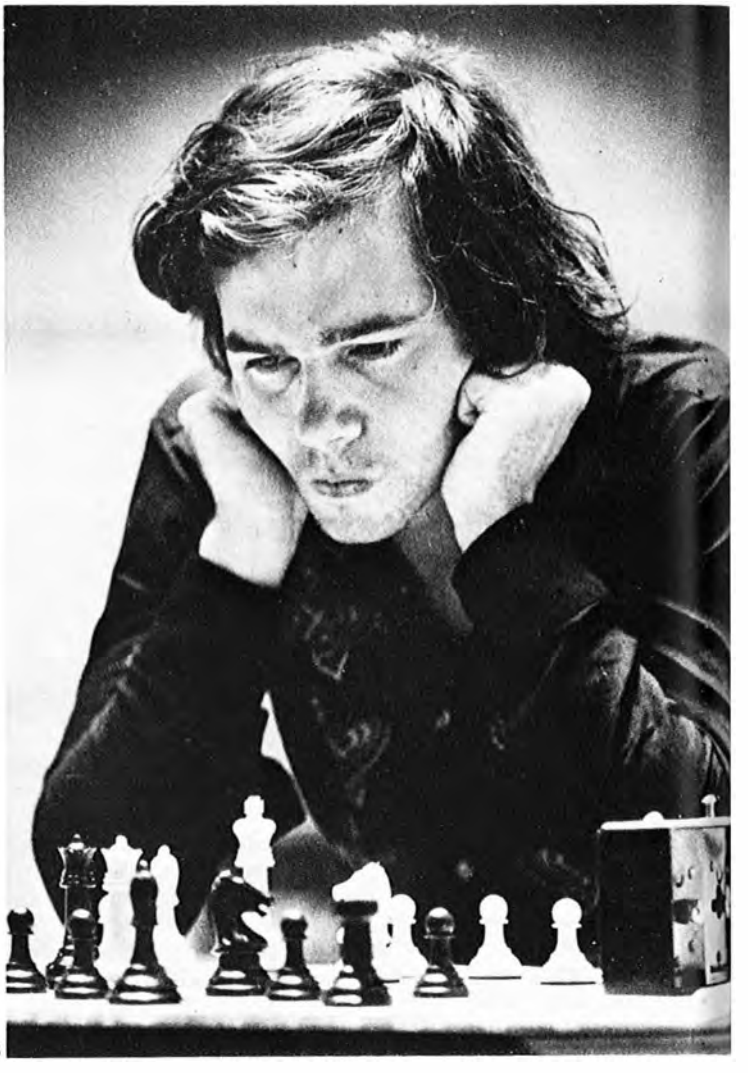

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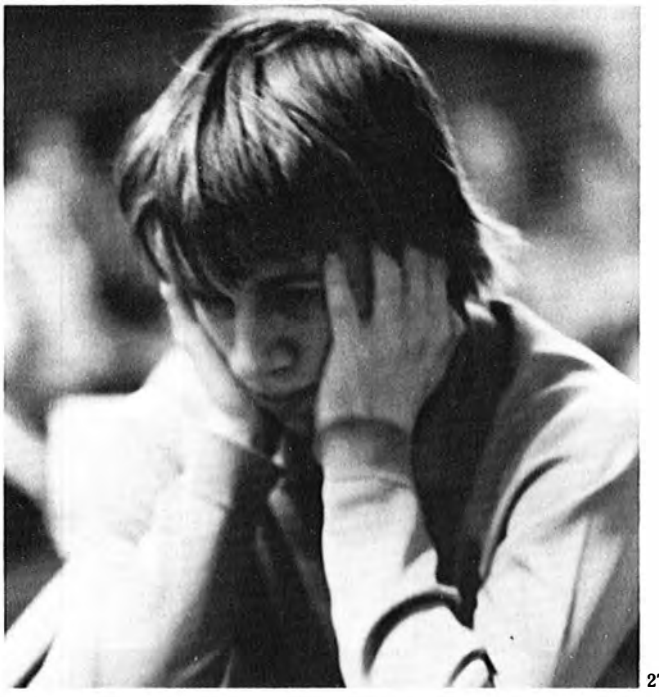
277. Robert Hubner (1948-), West Germany's leading grandmaster, startled the chess world in 1970 by achieving equal second through fourth places at the arduous Palma de Mallorca interzonal tournament, thereby qualifying for the world championship candidates matches in 1971. He again startled the chess public when he forfeited his quarter final candidates match to Petrosian after losing the seventh game, with three games yet to play. Claiming that excessively noisy conditions made him blunder away the seventh game (the first six were drawn), and that this did not bother Petrosian who was able to turn off his hearing aid, he became exasperated and quit. Unfortunately, although there was ample justification for his anger, his subsequent protest was not upheld precisely because he did quit the match. A very stubborn opponent, Hubner has a genuinely profound talent and is greatly respected by his peers for the amazing depth, length and precision of his calculations over the board.

278. Walter Shawn Browne (1949-) won, without the loss of a single game, the U.S. championships of 1974 and 1975, and is America's most promising young grandmaster. A very aggressive player, widely admired for his imaginative tactical play, Browne has already won several major foreign events and seems well on his way to becoming one of the world's best. Browne is something of a "little Fischer," not only in that he likes Bobby's favorite openings, especially such sharp systems as the Sicilian, King's Indian, and Benoni defenses, but also because he is notorious for complaining about poor playing conditions. He puts tremendous effort into every game and is prone to getting into severe time problems; he is often forced to put on incredible displays of speed, such as making five or ten moves in under a minute, in order to come in under the time limit.



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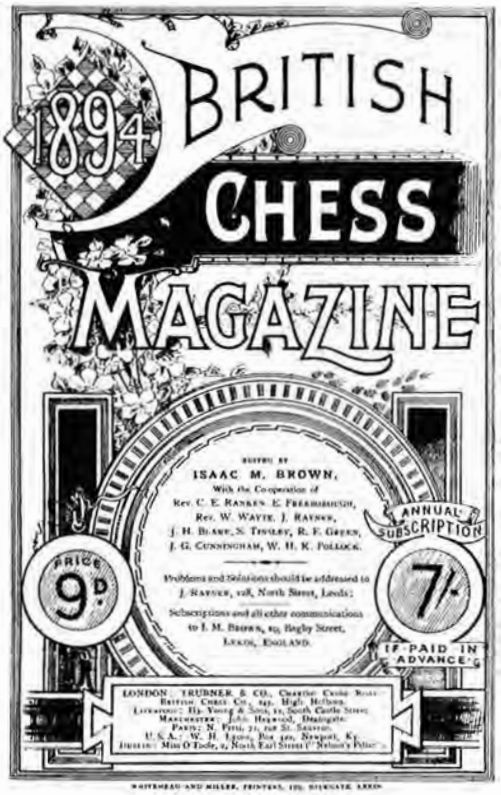
279. Ulf Andersson (1951-) of Sweden, after winning the exceptionally strong 1974 Capablanca memorial tournament in Cuba, and following this with a sensational upset match victory over Larsen (5½-2½) in 1975, must now be reckoned as one of the world's most promising young grandmasters. With the possible exception of Karpov, he has the most positionally mature style of any of the new chess stars, and plays in an agonizingly (to his opponents) patient way, endlessly probing here and there, looking for a weakness. Perhaps prophetically, Andersson was the first player to defeat Karpov after he became world champion, in a typically arduous 76-move marathon game at Milan in 1975.

280. Henrique Mecking (1952-) of Brazil burst upon the international chess scene with his astonishing upset victory, ahead of such players as Portisch, Polugayevsky and Geller, at the very powerful 1973 Petropolis (Brazil) interzonal tournament. Afterwards, he put up a very hard fight against the veteran Korchnoi in the quarter final candidates matches but lost 7½-5½. Recently, poor health has forced him to curtail his active playing career.

281. Julio Kaplan (1950-) of Puerto Rico, winner of the world junior championship in 1967, has been an international master since 1970. An aggressive, always well-prepared player who likes very sharp openings, Kaplan is one of the brightest prospects in American chess.



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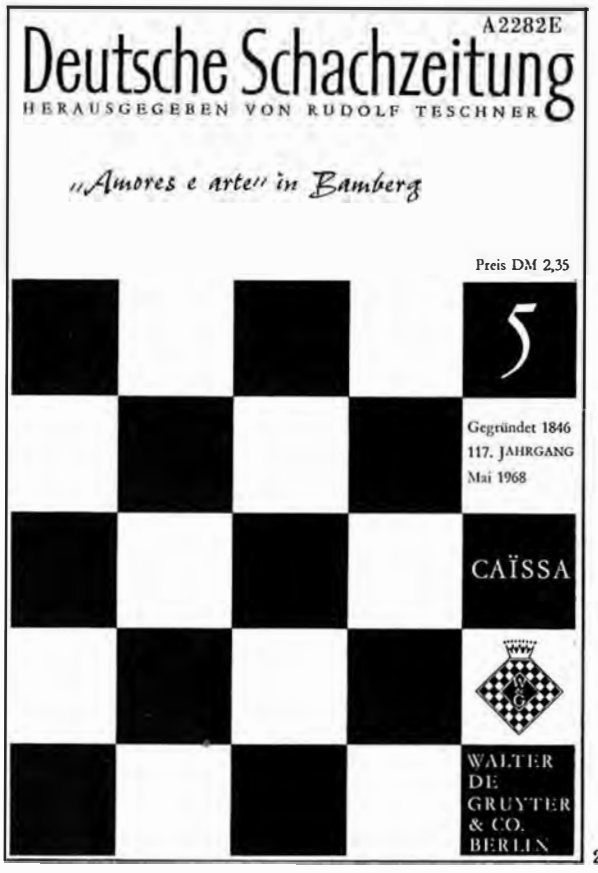

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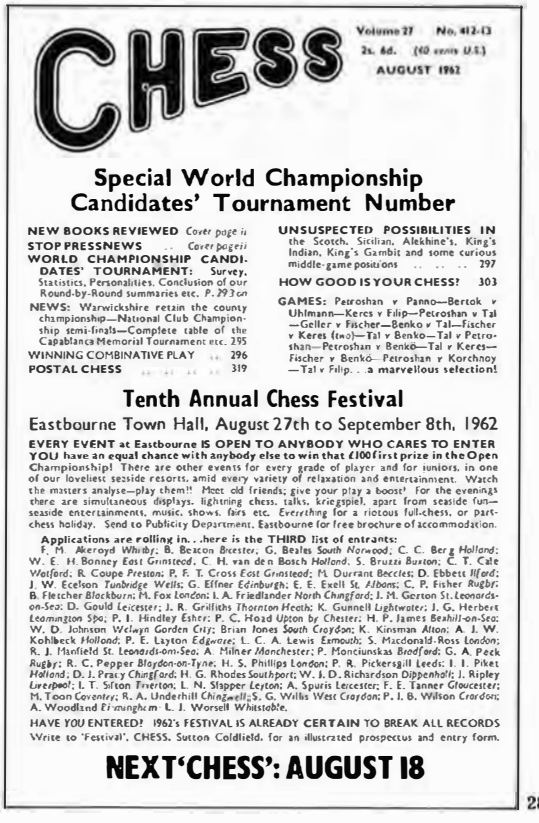
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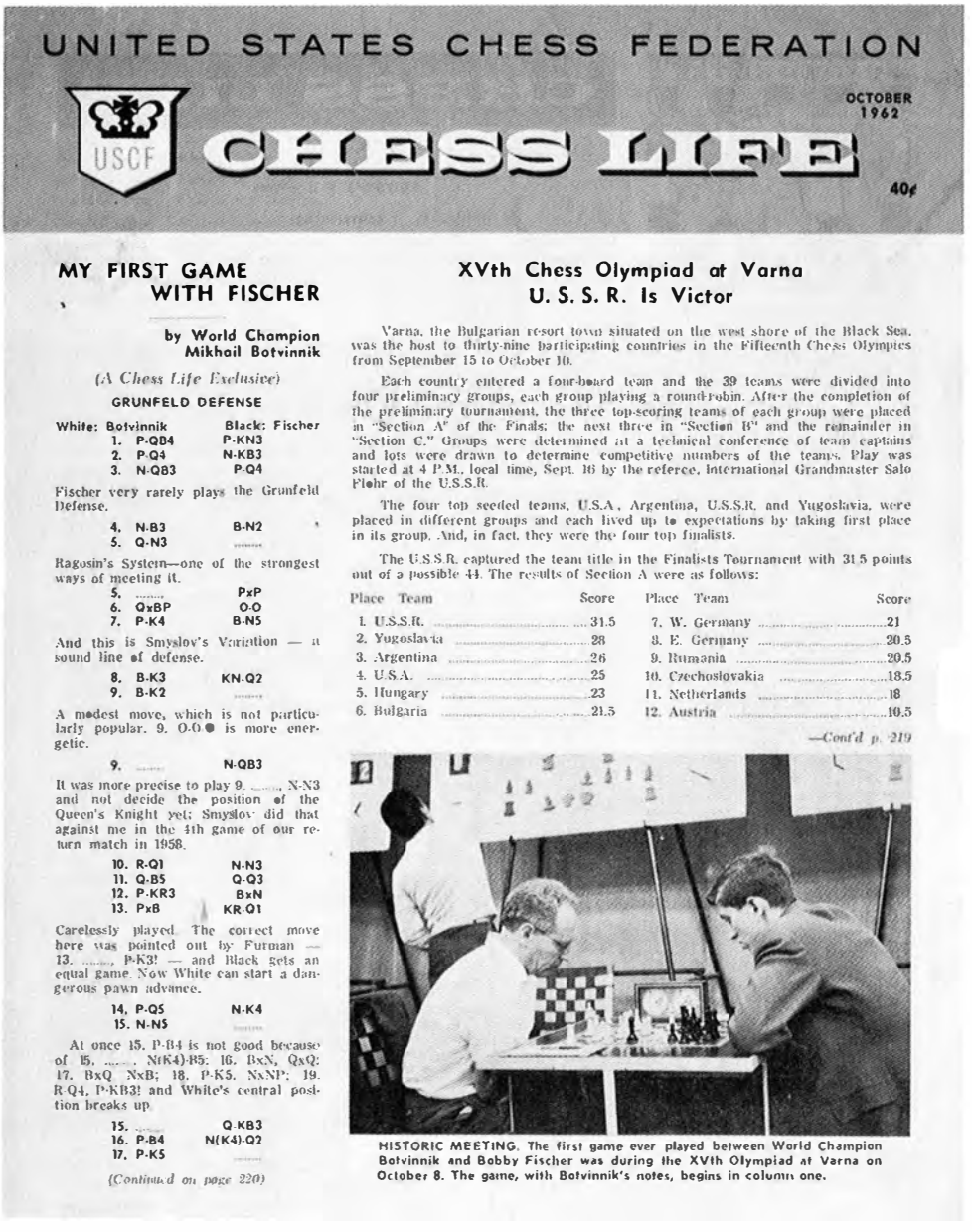
282. *British Chess Magazine*, the oldest continuously published chess magazine has not missed a single issue since its inception in January 1881. It is the finest chess periodical published in the English language today. In terms of coherent, complete coverage of international chess events and plentiful selections of good contemporary master games, it is second to none.

283. *Deutsche Schachzeitung*, established in 1846, is the oldest and longest-running chess publication, having only missed being issued during the Second World War.

284. *Chess*, a very lively and occasionally iconoclastic magazine, is the second most popular chess periodical in Great Britain today.

285. *schakend nederland* is the major Dutch chess magazine.



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CHESS LIFE

OCTOBER 1962

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MY FIRST GAME WITH FISCHER

by World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik

(A Chess Life Exclusive)

GRUNFELD DEFENSE

White: Botvinnik	Black: Fischer
1. P-QB4	P-KN3
2. P-Q4	N-KB3
3. N-QB3	P-Q4

Fischer very rarely plays the Grunfeld Defense.

4. N-B3	B-N2
5. Q-N3	.....

Ragosin's System—one of the strongest ways of meeting it.

5.	PxP
6. QxBP	O-O
7. P-K4	B-N5

And this is Smyslov's Variation — a sound line of defense.

8. B-K3	KN-Q2
9. B-K2	.....

A modest move, which is not particularly popular. 9. O-O● is more energetic.

9.	N-QB3

It was more precise to play 9. ..... N-N3 and not decide the position of the Queen's Knight yet; Smyslov did that against me in the 4th game of our return match in 1958.

10. R-Q1	N-N3
11. Q-B5	Q-Q3
12. P-KR3	BxN
13. PxB	KR-Q1

Carelessly played. The correct move here was pointed out by Furman — 13. ....., P-K3! — and Black gets an equal game. Now White can start a dangerous pawn advance.

14. P-Q5	N-K4
15. N-N5	.....

At once 15. P-B4 is not good because of 15. ..... N(K4)-B5; 16. BxN, QxQ; 17. BxQ NxB; 18. P-K5. NxNP; 19. R-Q4, P-KB3! and White's central position breaks up.

15.	Q-KB3
16. P-B4	N(K4)-Q2
17. P-K5	.....

(Continued on page 220)

XVth Chess Olympiad at Varna U. S. S. R. Is Victor

Varna, the Bulgarian resort town situated on the west shore of the Black Sea, was the host to thirty-nine participating countries in the Fifteenth Chess Olympics from September 15 to October 10.

Each country entered a four-board team and the 39 teams were divided into four preliminary groups, each group playing a round-robin. After the completion of the preliminary tournament, the three top-scoring teams of each group were placed in "Section A" of the Finals; the next three in "Section B" and the remainder in "Section C." Groups were determined at a technical conference of team captains and lots were drawn to determine competitive numbers of the teams. Play was started at 4 P.M., local time, Sept. 16 by the referee, International Grandmaster Salo Flohr of the U.S.S.R.

The four top seeded teams, U.S.A., Argentina, U.S.S.R. and Yugoslavia, were placed in different groups and each lived up to expectations by taking first place in its group. And, in fact, they were the four top finalists.

The U.S.S.R. captured the team title in the Finalists Tournament with 31.5 points out of a possible 44. The results of Section A were as follows:

Place	Team	Score	Place	Team	Score
1.	U.S.S.R.	31.5	7.	W. Germany	21
2.	Yugoslavia	28	8.	E. Germany	20.5
3.	Argentina	26	9.	Rumania	20.5
4.	U.S.A.	25	10.	Czechoslovakia	18.5
5.	Hungary	23	11.	Netherlands	18
6.	Bulgaria	21.5	12.	Austria	10.5

—Cont'd p. 219

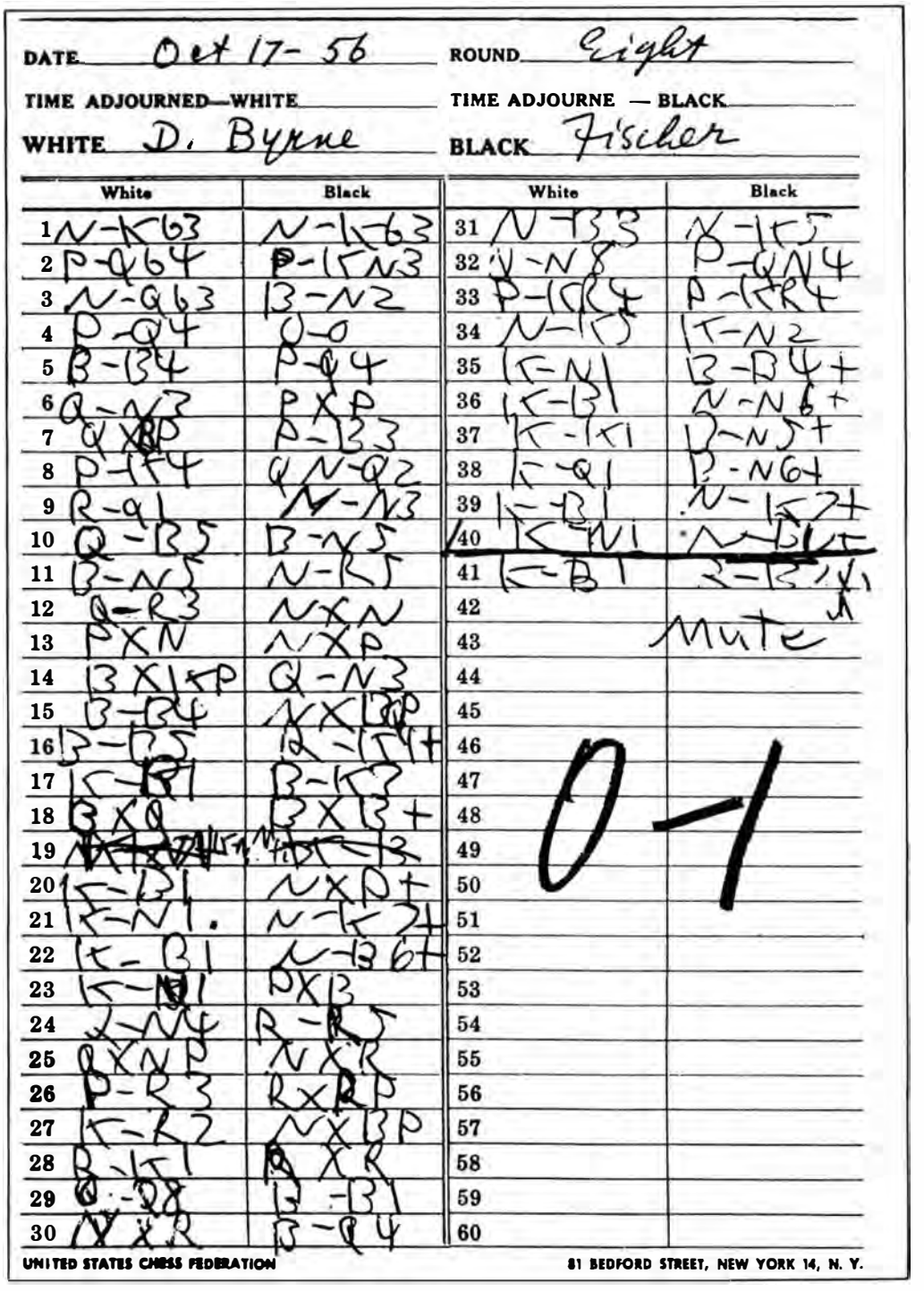
HISTORIC MEETING. The first game ever played between World Champion Botvinnik and Bobby Fischer was during the XVth Olympiad at Varna on October 8. The game, with Botvinnik's notes, begins in column one.

286. Bobby Fischer's only encounter with Botvinnik, which quite naturally made the cover of *Chess Life*. The aging ex-champion, surprised by an innovation in the opening, obtained a very inferior position but struggled on and managed to draw a very difficult endgame.

In 1969 *Chess Life*, the offical organ of the United States Chess Federation, merged with "Al" Horowitz's very popular *Chess Review*, forming *Chess Life & Review*, now the leading American chess periodical. Although not quite so sophisticated as *British Chess Magazine* (it has to cater to the largest readership of any chess magazine in the world—over 40,000 paid subscribers), it is very entertainingly produced and gives excellent coverage to both American and world events.

287. Bobby Fischer at the 1966/67 U.S. championship, where he won the American title for a record eighth time. He has since refused to play in this event, claiming that the relatively small number of invited masters (usually 12 or 14) should be greatly enlarged to prevent a "freak" loss or two from seriously hindering the strongest player's chances. His overall record in this event is unparalleled: not only was he the youngest American champion (at 14), but during the period 1957-67, in which he won all eight times he participated, his total score against his compatriots was an incredible 61 wins, 26 draws, and only 3 losses. His 11-0 victory at the U.S. championship of 1963/64 is one of the most remarkable achievements in the history of tournament chess.

288. Fischer at Bled (Yugoslavia) 1959. At the time of this candidates tournament, won by Tal (who trounced Bobby in their games 4-0), and at the following one held in 1962 in Curaçao, Fischer still had not had the necessary experience nor developed the awesome precision (now the major characteristic of his play) needed to win consistently from the Soviet super-grandmasters. Fischer also handicapped himself during this period by stubbornly playing a very limited number of openings, which, not unnaturally, he found the Russians very well prepared for. By 1970, Fischer had adopted a much more practical and psychologically effective approach, and since then no one has ever really known what opening he will play.



DATE Oct 17-56 ROUND Eight

TIME ADJOURNED—WHITE TIME ADJOURNE — BLACK

WHITE D. Byrne BLACK Fischer

	White	Black		White	Black
1	N-KB3	N-KB3	31	N-B3	N-K5
2	P-Q4	P-KN3	32	N-N8	P-QN4
3	N-QB3	B-N2	33	P-QR4	P-KR4
4	P-Q5	O-O	34	N-K5	B-N2
5	B-B4	P-Q4	35	R-N1	B-B4+
6	Q-N3	PXP	36	K-B1	N-N6+
7	QXBP	P-B3	37	K-K1	B-N5+
8	P-K4	QN-Q2	38	K-Q1	B-N6+
9	R-Q1	N-N3	39	K-B1	N-K7+
10	Q-B5	B-N5	40	K-N1	N-B6+
11	B-N5	N-K5	41	K-B1	R-B1
12	Q-R3	NXN	42		
13	PXN	NXP	43		Mate
14	BXKP	Q-N3	44		
15	B-B4	NXKBP	45		
16	B-B5	R-K1+	46		
17	K-B1	B-K3	47		
18	BXQ	BXB+	48		
19	~~N-K4~~	~~N-B3~~	49		
20	K-B1	NXP+	50		
21	K-N1	N-K7+	51		
22	K-B1	N-B6+	52		
23	K-N1	RXB	53		
24	R-N4	B-R3	54		
25	QXNP	NXR	55		
26	P-R3	RXRP	56		
27	K-R2	NXBP	57		
28	R-KB1	RXR	58		
29	Q-B8	B-B1	59		
30	NXR	B-Q4	60		

0-1

UNITED STATES CHESS FEDERATION 81 BEDFORD STREET, NEW YORK 14, N. Y.

289. Bobby Fischer's scoresheet of his famous so-called "Game of the Century," which he won against Donald Byrne at the 1956 Rosenwald tournament with a brilliant queen sacrifice. He was still only 13 years old. While, objectively, it is not one of the greatest games ever played, it is certainly the finest ever produced by one so young.

290. Fischer vs. his old rival Reshevsky at the Second Piatigorsky Cup tournament, held in Santa Monica, California in 1966.

Robert James "Bobby" Fischer, the most extraordinary phenomenon in the history of chess and the strongest player the world has seen so far, was born March 9, 1943. By the age of 12 he was clearly of expert strength, finishing with an equal score in the tough U.S. junior championship of 1955, won by Charles Kalme. Just how, within the space of three years, granted that chess was now his sole *raison d'etre*, Fischer was able to become, at 15, the youngest grandmaster ever, is one of those wonderful, miraculous human accomplishments which can never be fully explained.

Fischer's overall tournament results have been consistently superb, among his finest achievements being equal first with Spassky at Mar Del Plata 1960 (both scoring an amazing 13½ out of 15), second at Bled 1960 (without loss, beating the winner Tal), clear first at the unusually strong Stockholm 1962 (2½ points above Geller and Petrosian), equal second through fourth at the powerful Capablanca memorial, Havana 1965, behind Smyslov (in this he had to play by radio from New York City, as he could not get a visa—all his games took twice as long as anyone else's to finish), and first at the strong Monaco and Skopje events of 1967. But it was in 1970, when he had been coaxed into playing in the Palma De Mallorca international tournament, that Fischer began such a startling and overwhelming series of victories, the like of which will probably never be seen again in modern chess. Although losing one game (to Larsen), Bobby won this tremendously tough event with the phenomenal score of 18½ out of 23, no less than 3½ points ahead of his nearest rivals Larsen, Geller and Hubner. And then Bobby really did the unbelievable—he defeated both Taimanov and Larsen in the candidates matches by the identical scores of 6–0. Counting his seven straight wins in the last seven rounds of the Palma event, and his first game victory over Petrosian in their match, Bobby Fischer has won 20 consecutive games in world championship preliminary competition. Petrosian finally broke the streak by winning the second game of their final, and held Fischer even through the first five games, but then cracked in the sixth, losing four in a row.

After losing the first game of the 1972 Reykjavik world championship match to Spassky by rashly trying to win a drawn position, and forfeiting the second over a silly dispute, Bobby proceeded to win six of the next 11 games, establishing an insurmountable three-point lead. Though Spassky fought back manfully in the second half of the match, he let Bobby slip out of several bad positions, and finally collapsed in game 21. Bobby Fischer, winning the world chess championship with the impressive score of 12½–8½, had finally achieved his destiny.

After winning the world crown in 1972 Fischer has not played one known serious game of chess. None of the numerous and substantial offers he has since received have satisfied him, and he is apparently in retirement. No one really knows why. In April 1975, Fischer forfeited his title to the official challenger Anatoly Karpov.

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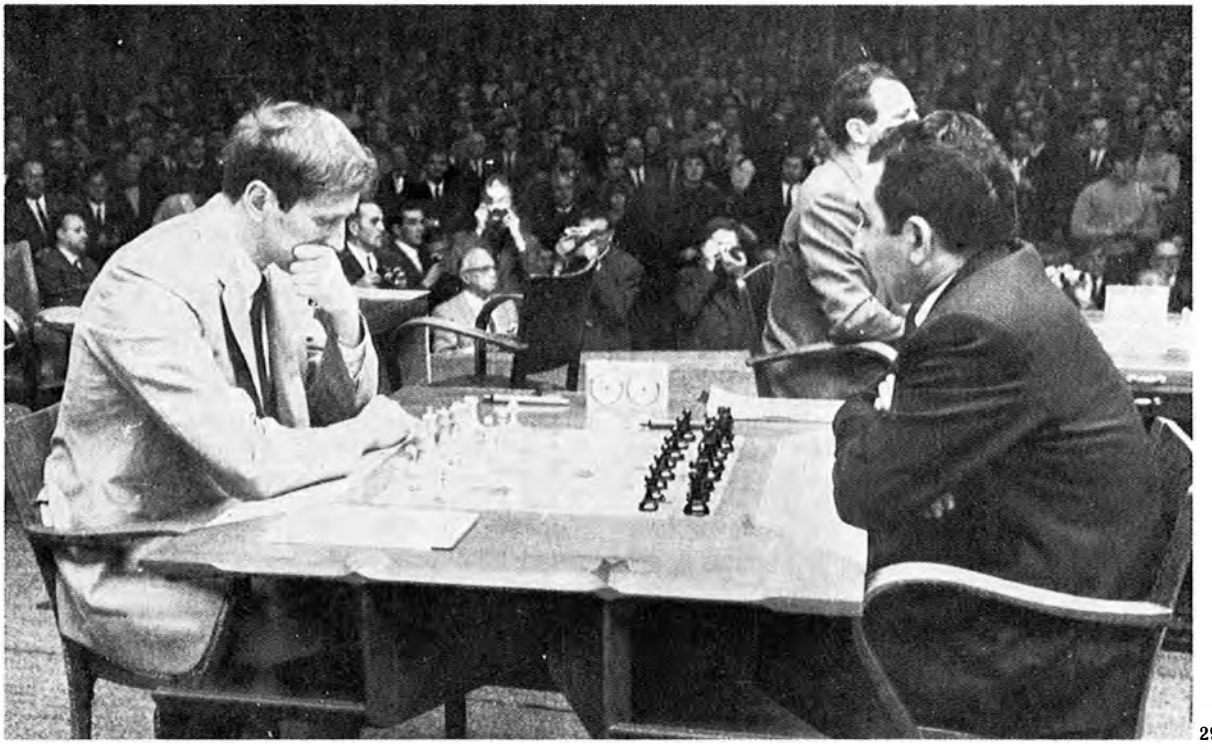

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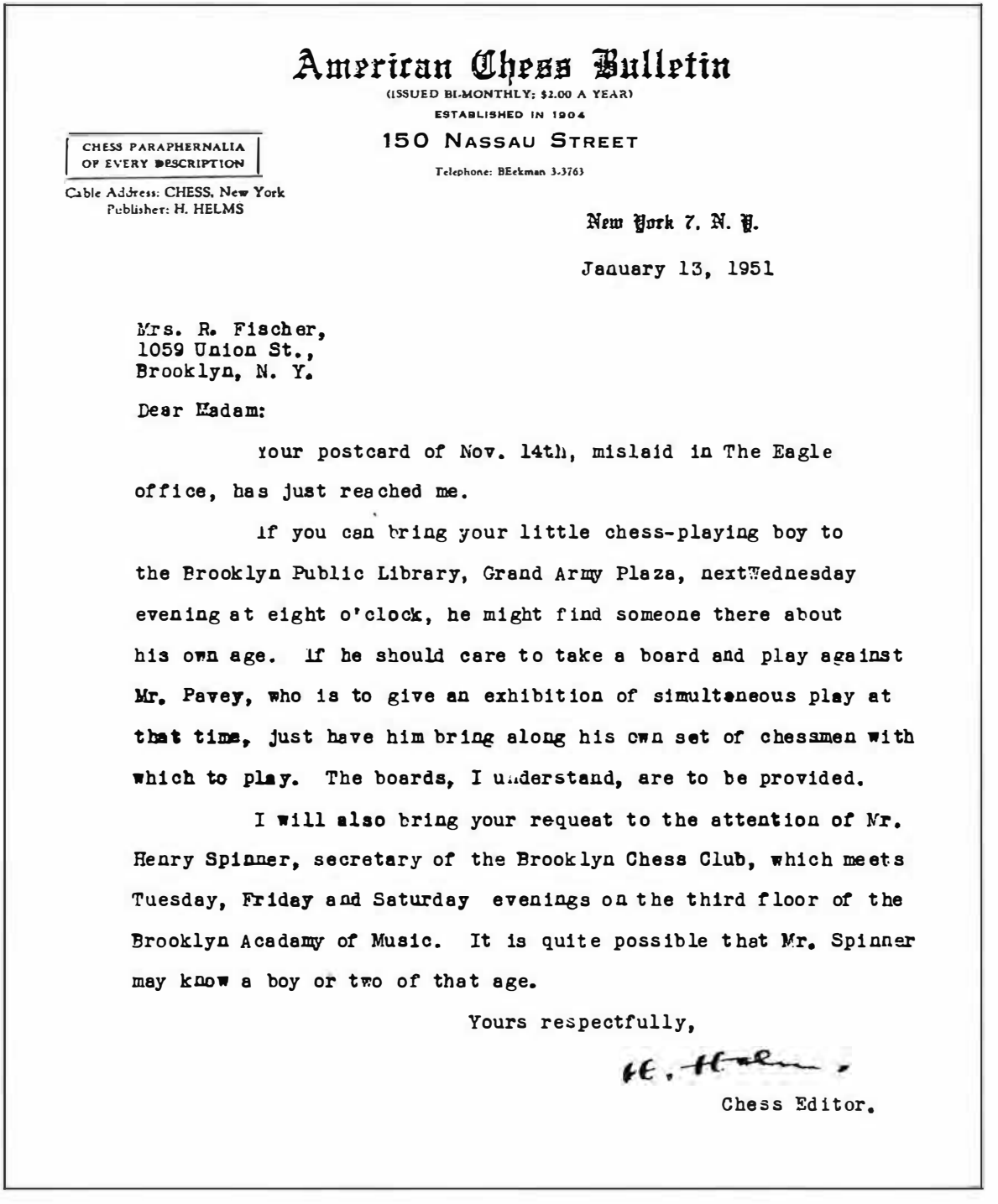
291. Fischer talking with Castro at the Havana Olympiad of 1966.
292. Fischer playing Petrosian during the U.S.S.R. vs. The World match in 1970; prophetically, Fischer won this match 3-1.



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January 13, 1951

Mrs. R. Fischer,
1059 Union St.,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Madam:

Your postcard of Nov. 14th, mislaid in The Eagle office, has just reached me.

If you can bring your little chess-playing boy to the Brooklyn Public Library, Grand Army Plaza, next Wednesday evening at eight o'clock, he might find someone there about his own age. If he should care to take a board and play against Mr. Pavey, who is to give an exhibition of simultaneous play at that time, just have him bring along his own set of chessmen with which to play. The boards, I understand, are to be provided.

I will also bring your request to the attention of Mr. Henry Spinner, secretary of the Brooklyn Chess Club, which meets Tuesday, Friday and Saturday evenings on the third floor of the Brooklyn Academy of Music. It is quite possible that Mr. Spinner may know a boy or two of that age.

Yours respectfully,

H. Helms

Chess Editor.

293. The beginning of a legend.

Bobby Fischer, in terms of the overall magnificence of his games and the brief, but almost total, domination he displayed against his leading contemporaries, must be ranked, along wth Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine and Botvinnik, as one of the greatest world champions of the twentieth century. He is fiercely aggressive, has a terrifying will to win, can play all types of positions superbly, and, when he sits down to play, always manifests fantastically strong nerves and a courageous fighting spirit. He is still the strongest player the world has ever seen; it is a great pity that he has chosen to cut short his brilliant career in his prime.

294. Anatoly Karpov, the current world champion and now clearly the strongest active player in the world, was born May 23, 1951. Although not a prodigy he developed very quickly, so that by the time he had won the world junior championship in 1969, at the age of 18, it was obvious that the Russians had another grandmaster in the making. He did in fact become a grandmaster the next year, by finishing equal fourth through sixth at the very strong Caracas tournament. Karpov's quiet, positional style gave no hint of what would happen next. Indeed, most of the chess world was not even aware until it was almost all over that a new, great chess genius had arrived—so imperceptibly had Karpov crept up on us.

What did happen is now history. From his equal first with Stein at the tremendously strong Alekhine memorial tournament of 1971 (ahead of Petrosian, Spassky, Korchnoi and a host of other top players), to his final 24-game candidates match victory over Korchnoi in 1974 (3-2, with 19 draws; this was a *de facto* world championship match as Fischer subsequently defaulted), Karpov has achieved first prize in *every* international event he competed in but one (a second at Budapest 1973). It is an astonishingly impressive record; during this period Karpov lost only 16 games. In 1978 Karpov again defeated Korchnoi for the world championship, this time by the score of 6–5, with 21 draws, in a bitter, prolonged struggle held in Baguio City, in the Philippines.

After becoming world champion Karpov immediately established that he really is, in Botvinnik's phrase, "the first among equals." If there were any doubts, raised by his narrow one-point victory over Korchnoi, Karpov quickly removed them by, within six months of Fischer's default, winning outright first prizes at Ljubljana/Portoroz (Yugoslavia) and Milan, the two strongest international events held in 1975.

Karpov is blessed with an innate positional understanding and an amazingly objective, emotionally uncomplicated, and calm personality. He has summed up his own style well: "I consider myself a positional-style player. This doesn't mean, of course, that the beauty of combinations leaves me cold. If the situation on the board permits me to wind up the battle with an impressive tactical blow, I'm very happy to do so. There are, however, chess players who are ready to risk anything for a tempting idea. Though many fans admire that kind of romanticism, it doesn't suit me at all; realism is more my style. What I appreciate in chess is a harmonious, consistent plan based on a thorough assessment of the position. Of course, I like to win beautifully, but what I take into account first of all is not my wishes and the mood of the public but the position itself."

Karpov is clearly the most strategically gifted young grandmaster since Capablanca—with whom he has often been compared. If he does not play as dynamically as Fischer did, nor win as many games, he also does not lose as frequently, and is certainly playing better chess than Fischer did at a comparable age. The almost frightening thing is he is still getting stronger; it seems safe to predict that, especially as Bobby Fischer has apparently retired, Anatoly Karpov will remain world chess champion for at least the next decade. It will be fascinating to observe his future progress. He will most probably become, if he has not already, one of the greatest players who ever lived.

295. A Galaxy of Grandmasters: (Top, left to right) Paul Keres, Vasily Smyslov, Miroslav Filip; (Middle, left to right) Tigran Petrosian, Mikhail Tal, Ludek Pachman. (Bottom, left to right) Svetozar Gligoric, Oscar Panno, Florin Gheorghiu.

In 1976 there were over 100 active international grandmasters, and this number is steadily increasing. Every year more tournaments are held, every other year more nations than ever before are sending teams to the chess Olympiad—the most recent one, at Buenos Aires, Argentina, included representatives from over 80 countries. In general, the popularity of chess is growing at an amazing pace. Despite the enormous organizational problems and attendant political bickering that comes with such tremendous growth, the fact is that more and more people from all over the world are working in concert to promote chess. Perhaps, someday, the motto of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), *Gens una sumus* (we are all one), will become a reality.

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